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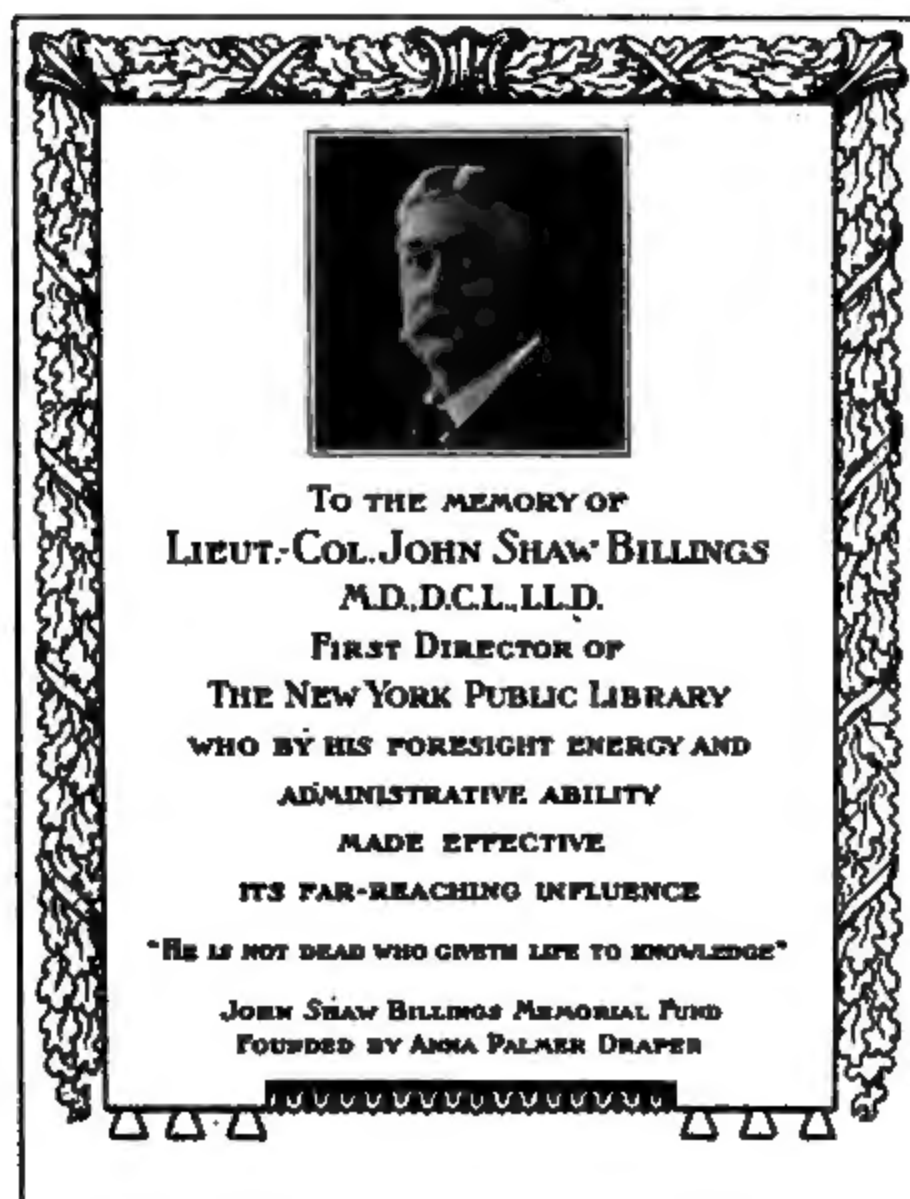


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**AN AMERICAN GLOSSARY.**



AN  
**AMERICAN GLOSSARY**

**BEING AN ATTEMPT TO ILLUSTRATE CERTAIN  
AMERICANISMS UPON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES**

BY  
**RICHARD H. THORNTON**

**OF THE PHILADELPHIA BAR  
LAW PROFESSOR IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, 1884-1905**

**VOL. I. A—L**

**"The new circumstances under which we are placed call for new words, new phrases, and for the transfer of old words to new objects. An American dialect will therefore be formed."—Thomas Jefferson to John Waldo, August 16, 1813, from Monticello.**

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## TO THE READER.

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AN old author has said\* that "A definition, like the bark with the tree, is to be neither straiter nor larger than the thing defined; and, so it comprehend all, the shorter it is the better."

It would be difficult, and indeed impossible, to construct a definition of an Americanism which should be comprehensive and concise. I, at any rate, will not attempt the task. But in this compilation I have included :—

I. Forms of speech now obsolete or provincial in England, which survive in the U.S., such as *allow, bureau, fall, gotten, guess, likely, professor, shoat*.

II. Words and phrases of distinctly American origin : such as *belittle, lengthy, lightning-rod; to darken one's doors, to bark up the wrong tree, to come out at the little end of the horn; blind tiger, cold snap, gay Quaker, gone coon, long sauce, pay dirt, small potatoes, some pumpkins*.

III. Nouns which indicate quadrupeds, birds, trees, articles of food, &c., that are distinctively American : such as *ground-hog, hang-bird, hominy, live-oak, locust, opossum, persimmon, pone, succotash, wampum, wigwam*.

IV. Names of persons and classes of persons, and of places : such as *Buckeye, Cracker, Greaser, Hoosier, Old Bullion, Old Hickory, the Little Giant, Dixie, Gotham, the Bay State, the Monumental City*.

V. Words which have assumed a new meaning, such as *card, clever, fork, help, penny, plunder, raise, rock, sack, ticket, windfall*.

VI. Words and phrases of which I have found earlier examples in American than in English writers. These are inserted with the *caveat* that further research may reverse

\* 'Barlow on Timothy,' 1632, pt. ii. p. 150.

the claim. To this class belong *alarmist, capitalize, eruptiveness, horse of another colour, the jig's up, nameable, omnibus bill, propaganda, whitewash.*

There are curious instances of survival which have not taken root, and which it seems better to insert here than in the body of the glossary :—

**Aha !** (used once by Charles Reade). “*Ah, hah, you threaten, do you ? Do you threaten ?*”—Mr. Widgery in Congress, *Massachusetts Spy*, Dec. 30, 1812.

**Away with.** “*I can away with chewing, for it seems natural.*”—*Franklin Herald*, Greenfield, Mass., April 20, 1824.

**Bonify.** To benefit. 1603, Florio's ‘*Montaigne*’ (N.E.D.). “*Capital diplomacy, for a treaty to be ratified or rejected by Senators representing States thus bonified !*”—Mr. C. J. Ingersoll of Pennsylvania, House of Representatives, Aug. 26, 1842 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 954, Appendix.

**Brack.** A cliff or rock. “*Then keep the south brack aboard [sic] until they get to the point of South Beach.*”—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Sept. 10, 1796.

**Circulate.** To encircle. 1571–1685, N.E.D. “[With his tail] he *circulated* twice the neck of the horse, and at the same time seized a large tree with his fore feet.”—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 30, 1818.

**Clevis.** An iron loop to which tackle may be attached. 1592, N.E.D. “*Here he left gopher, geers, singletree, and a klevis, all mixed up, not worth a durn.*”—*Oregon Weekly Times*, May 12, 1855.

**Clinch-work.** This is the “*clinch-work*” of Falconer's ‘*Dict.*,’ 1769, N.E.D. “[The schooner has] a small *clinch-work* boat.”—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Sept. 9, 1788.

**Clomb.** “*In the heroism of the moment, she clomb the window.*”—*San Francisco Call*, May 29, 1857.

**Coldly.** Dispassionately. 1526–1873, N.E.D. “*A high-spirited valiant man took a small ox goad, and, coldly belaboured one of the officers.*”—*Mass. Spy*, May 14, 1772.

**Daw.** To play the fool. 1596, N.E.D. “*Most men have but one talent ; the Irish tapster had two,—a talent to daw, and a talent to drink.*”—Mr. Cooper of Pennsylvania, House of Repr., July 2, 1841 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 143.

**Defy.** A challenge. Sidney, 1580, to North, 1734, N.E.D. “[A serjeant of police] recently issued a *defy* to the city police force, to eat a thousand oysters with him in a week.”—*Philadelphia Inquirer*, Nov. 28, 1907.

**Den.** To occupy a den. ‘G. Fletcher, 1610, N.E.D. “*How a she-bear denned in his rock-dwelling, the first winter after he commenced clearing his land.*”—‘*Lowell Offering*,’ i. 227. (1841.)

**Dine.** A dinner. "We'd been having a Delmonico *dine* together, Hiram and I."—*Knick. Mag.*, lvi. 582. (1860.)

**Doated wood.** 1466, now dial., N.E.D. "A little of the dust, *doated* or rotten wood, with it to prevent a blaze."—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 16, 1822.

**Droger.** A carrier of supplies to a logging camp. From *Drog*, v., 1681, N.E.D. "It is quite common for *drogers*, as they are sometimes called, to form a northern caravan. Company, and mutual assistance in cases of necessity, are the motives which unite them."—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 144. (N.Y., 1851.)

**Exceeding** for exceedingly. "*Exceeding* mild pigtail" was advertised in the *Mass. Spy*, Oct. 1, 1772. "[The chapel] was *exceeding* cold, and I without a surtout."—Thomas Hutchinson's 'Diary,' Jan. 8, 1780.

**Expire.** To breathe out. "The air *expired* by the leaves is eminently pure and healthy."—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 114. (1821.)

**Explode.** To dismiss contemptuously. B.B. having been disbarred, "The Repertory says two other Democrats will shortly be *exploded*."—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 10, 1816.

**Fills.** Old form of *thills*, used by Shakspeare (1606), Rowley (1632), &c. (N.E.D.). "It is too degrading to work in the *fills* of any man's chariot."—Letter of S. K. Blythe to the *Nashville Republican: Richmond Whig*, Sept. 10, 1828, p. 2/2.

**Finishing Hand.** A finishing touch. "And thus put a *finishing hand* to the system."—*Id.*, June 2, 1813.

**Galls.** 1573, N.E.D. "The bay *galls* are properly water courses, covered with a spongy earth mixed with a kind of matted vegetable fibres.... Their natural produce is a stately tree called loblolly bay.... The cypress *galls* differ from these in being a firm sandy soil."—B. Romans, 'Florida,' pp. 31-32. (1775.)

**Gim.** Gay. 1513, now dial., N.E.D. "[The fine gentlemen were] dressed as *gim* as peacocks."—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 28, 1796.

**Glode.** Ab. 1460, N.E.D. "The Bridge [of ice] upon which we '*glode*' was three miles wide."—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 429, April, 1856.

**Gunman.** 1624, now rare, N.E.D. "They are supposed to be about four hundred *gunmen*."—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 99. (1775.)

**Hard favoured.** 1513, N.E.D. "She hadn't seen me then, or she never could have loved such a *hard favoured* man as you are."—A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 16. (1840).

**Hath** for has. "A force, part of which *hath* destroyed this northern army."—*Maryland Journal*, Feb. 3, 1778. "A boat, which *hath* been newly fitted up."—*Id.*, May 19, 1778, Advt.

- Het** for heated: "long o' Congress, you can't strike, 'f you git an iron *het*."—'Biglow Papers,' 2nd S., No. 3, 1862.
- Incant.** To invoke. 1546, N.E.D. "Leave the sad Indian to *incant* the devil with tears and screeches."—*Mass. Spy*, March 12, 1800.
- Inconsolate.** Disconsolate. "The husband became *inconsolate*."—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 13, 1826: from the N.Y. *National Advocate*.
- Jower.** To growl, to scold. 1628, N.E.D. "[The dog] snarls and *jowers* at friends as well as foes."—*Boston Evening Post*, Nov. 23, 1767. The word is still used in the south:—'Dialect Notes.'
- Lodge, v.** Not quite obs. in England, N.E.D. "The wheat, in the agricultural language of this country, *lodges* not unfrequently (i.e., it falls under the pressure of wind or rain) by its own weight."—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' ii. 341. (1821.)
- Outland.** Outlying land. "I bought several acres of *outland* for my children....I married my oldest daughter to a clever lad, to whom I gave one hundred acres of my *outland*."—*Am. Museum*, i. 11, Jan., 1787.
- Owe.** To own. "America *owes* not a citizen more fitted than Col. Burr to be placed at the head of her government." Letter from "A Rice Planter."—*The Aurora*, Phila., Dec. 5, 1800.
- Peen, v.** To hammer. 1513, now dial., N.E.D. "After the [horse-] shoe is turned, let the inside of it be *peened* out, so as to leave it in the form of a heater."—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 22, 1823.
- Preacheress.** 1649, N.E.D. "Her popularity as a *preacheress* has never been surpassed."—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 15, 1819, from *The Pittsburgh Mercury*.
- Rake-stale.** A rake-handle. Chaucer. "A rise in hoe-handles, axe-helves, or *rake-stales*."—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 350. (1853.)
- Roynish.** Coarse. 'As you like it.' "You are not to expect me to notice your *roynish* and illiberal insinuations."—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 8, 1806.
- Saith** for says. "The Doctor *saith* it is not likely he will recover."—*Mass. Gazette*, Dec. 21, 1769.
- Shack.** A vagabond. Roger North's 'Examen,' p. 293. "Her father was a poor drunken *shack* away down in Bottletown."—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 3. (1856.) An English workman, speaking of another, whom he called a *shack*, said he was lazy, because he was born on Holy Thursday.—*Notes and Queries*, 10 S. iii. 287.
- Sitten** for sat. "He had *sitten* down by the kitchen fire with an almanac in his hand."—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 35. (1838.)
- Something** for somewhat. "His horse being *something* lame, he tarried all that day."—*Maryland Journal*, July 21, 1778.



This is an attempt to illustrate "certain Americanisms" only: those, that is, of recognized standing or of special interest. Accordingly it will be found that over 80 per cent of the illustrative quotations are half a century old. No attempt has been made to register the voluminous outpourings of modern slang; and the reader who wishes to investigate such phrases as "Adam and Eve on a raft" or to "get a wiggle on" will have to pursue his researches elsewhere. But some slang words and phrases are too characteristic to be left out, although modern; while others belong to the period of the hunter and the backwoodsman.

The principal dictionary of Americanisms hitherto published is that of Bartlett. Mr. John Russell Bartlett (23 Oct., 1805—28 May, 1886) was for some years librarian of the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, Rhode Island, to which city he belonged. His painstaking and valuable work has furnished considerable material for the 'New English Dictionary.' It is no discredit to him that he lived before the method of arranging and dating citations came into vogue; and unfortunately only a few of his references can be verified. He introduces, too, a number of words which are not properly American: such as *census*, *cobblestone*, *ear-mark*, *educational*, *grave-yard*, *guano*, *hurricane*, *mourner*, *passion-flower*, *profanity*, *rapids*, *re-insure*, *school fund*, *slave labour*, *sparse*, *sparsely*, *summons* as a verb, *timothy*, *vegetarian*, *watershed*. But he accomplished a memorable work, and his name will be remembered with continual gratitude.

Mr. John S. Farmer's 'Dictionary' is valuable in another way, as illustrating the great vitality of American modes of speech; for about nine-tenths of his citations come from publications of the year 1888. And he includes a great deal which I am obliged to omit. I have borrowed a number of the examples from him, as also from Bartlett.

A tribute of respect is due to Mr. Albert Matthews of Boston. He is probably the highest living authority on the present topic; and the production of an American Glossary should have come from his hands, if circumstances had not prevented it. I am much indebted to him for information obtained partly through his contributions to the N.E.D., partly from his monographs, and partly by correspondence.

There are in these two volumes about 14,000 illustrative citations. A few hundred are duplicates: as to which the following rules are observed:—When a brief citation includes two or more noted words, it is printed under each heading. See for instance (1839) **FIT** and **PESKY**.—When the citation, though somewhat long, is separable, it is given in full in one place, and in part in the other, with a cross-reference. See **PLUNDER** (1833) with cross-reference to **PRIMING**. And in other cases there is merely a cross-reference. See **SNAG**, 1822, 1851, 1857, 1875.

Any corrections or additions which suggest themselves to the careful reader will be gratefully received. I adopt as my own in sentiment the following curious verses, written about the time of the first settlement of the Jamestown colony.

RICHARD H. THORNTON.

36, Upper Bedford Place, London.

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## THE AUTHOR TO HIS BOOKE.

(*From John Norden's 'Surveyors Dialogue,' 1607.*)

Looke ere thou light into the hands of some ;  
Some lay but traps, to catch thee in disgrace :  
Disgrace thou none, be silent where thou come,  
(Yet thou shalt come where *Momus* is in place,)  
Place thee with those, whose hearts aright do see,  
And seeing iudge, in fauour, faults that be.

Faults be in thee ; who sayes he doth not erre,  
Erres, in conceit, that he alone is free :  
And such, not free, will sure thy faults transferre,  
And for one fault transferre them ten in thee :  
Not thee in this, but me they discommend,  
That I abroad do thee so basely send.

Base I thee send : excuse me what thou can ;  
If thou can not, plead thus to seeming friends :  
Alas, my friends, abortiue I began :  
Who me began, thus meanely foorth me sends,  
That I might send him, how I passe the taunts  
Of tainting tongs, that seek their praise by vaunts.

I vaunt it not, but am content to be  
Where meanest be, that blush to shew their face :  
Who sees my face, a picture base may see ;  
Yet may he see farre fayrer find disgrace.  
Disgrace not him, that sends me for good will,  
But will him well. Requite not good with ill.



# AN AMERICAN GLOSSARY.

**A**

**A few.** Much, considerably, a good deal; also, a little. The first two quotations, from 'The New English Dictionary,' illustrate these contrary uses. See also quot. 1849. Obsolete in England.

- 1761** I throw my eyes about *a few*.—A Murphy, ‘The Citizen,’ II. i. 1.
- 1778** Your letter, which diverted him *not a few*.—Susan Burney, Letter in Madame D’Arblay’s ‘Diary.’
- 1825** You shall hear him talk *a few*, in his own way.—What’s your name, Cuffee?—John Neal, ‘Brother Jonathan,’ ii. 301.
- 1825** You’ve grown *a few* since I saw you.—*Id.* ii. 443.
- 1835** He stopped by the way at a house of refreshment, to fortify *a few*.—*Vermont Free Press*, Jan. 24.
- 1842** I thought I’d put up at a hotel and git a good sleep, for I felt tired *a few*, I tell you.—*Spirit of the Times*, Phila., Jan. 10.
- 1845** He had suffered *a few*, and no mistake.—St. Louis *Reveille*, Sept. 1.
- 1848** Cautioning the embracers of beauty to look well, or they may get scratched *a few*.—Dow, Jr., ‘Patent Sermons,’ i. 156.
- 1848**
- And when the news was brought to me,  
I felt almighty blue;  
And though I didn’t shed no tear,  
Perhaps I cussed *a few*.
- ‘Stray Subjects,’ p. 109.
- 1849** He understands English only *a few*.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xxxiv. 92 (July).
- 1850** Sally could not help joining me, and I rayther guess Miss Patty suffered *a few*.—John Neal, ‘Johnny Beedle’s Courtship.’
- 1851** He’s *a few* / well, he is. Jewhilliken, how he could whip er nigger! and swar! whew!—‘Polly Peablossom’s Wedding,’ &c. (Phila.), p. 52.
- 1856** Does she write? *A few*, I should say. Your uncle read the proofs of her first novel.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlvii. 406 (April).
- 1862** If we carry our scalps out, we may be thankful *a few*.—*Harper’s Weekly*, June 7.



**Abolitionist.** An extreme anti-slavery man.

1790 Many looked upon the *Abolitionists* as monsters.—Clarkson, 'Slave Trade,' ii. 212 (N.E.D.).

1838 [The Administration party includes] old Federalists, the Champions of the Hartford Convention, counterfeit Democrats, National Republicans, Antimasons, and *Abolitionists*.—Mr. Yell of Arkansas, House of Representatives, April 16: *Congressional Globe*, p. 275, Appendix.

1840 Mr. Peck: If the gentleman speaks of my language as coming from an *Abolitionist*, he says what is not true. Mr. Bynum: If the gentleman is not an *Abolitionist*, there is not one in existence.—House of Representatives, Feb. 4: *id.*, p. 145.

[Mr. Bynum, a fire-eater from N. Carolina, afterwards abused Mr. Peck grossly.]

1840 Doctor Franklin was understood to be such an *Abolitionist* as nearly all the Northern people are, and perhaps a great share of the Southern people.—Mr. Smith of Connecticut, ditto, Feb. 12: *id.*, p. 191.

**Abolitionize.** To imbue with Abolition ideas.—Bartlett, 1848.

1860 Some of them declared that they came into the American party to *abolitionize* it; and, if they could not succeed in that, to destroy it.—Mr. Hill of Georgia, House of Repr., Jan. 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 334.

**Abrasive.** Grinding.

1823 In the spring of the year, the *abrasive* effect of the floating ice and trees [upon the banks of the Ohio] is very great.—Geo. W. Ogden, 'Letters from the West,' p. 13. (New Bedford).

1875 Ure ('Dict. of Arts') speaks of "the *abrasive* tool or grinder." (N.E.D.)

**Absquatulate.** To decamp, to disappear.

1837 Your blooded brown horse has *absquatulated*.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 117 (Lond.).

1837-40 Haliburton (N.E.D.) has *absquatilate*.

1840 I live in daily fear of being compelled to "*absquatulate*," or "Swartwout," or whatever else the reader may choose to call it.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xvi. 480 (Dec.).

1840 We may speedily expect to hear of many more Whigs following the example of our *absquatulating* cashier.—John P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 202.

1842 "The career of a foreign *absquatulator*" is sketched.—*Spirit of the Times*, Phila., June 20.

1842 When Mr. F. again called, the shingle had *absquatulated* from the shutter.—*Id.*, June 29.

1842 "A Wharf *Absquatulated*." Heading of a description of the accident.—*Id.*, Nov. 7.

1843 A can of oysters was discovered in our office by a friend, and he *absquatulated* with it, and left us with our mouth watering.—*Missouri Reporter*, St. Louis, Feb. 2.

**Absquatulate**—*contd.*

- 1845 "Money makes the mare go" is thus refined: "The circulating medium compels the female nag to *absquatulate*." —St. Louis *Reveille*, Aug. 18.
- 1847 You might infer that land moves off,—cuts its stick,—*absquatulates*; but it is no such thing. —Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 47.
- 1848 Here's jest a leetle horn a piece in the bottle; let's lick once more round, and then *absquattle*.—W. E. Burton's 'Waggeries,' p. 17 (Phila.).
- 1851 Highly indignant, the gentleman recommended the ebony-complexioned waiter to *absquatulate* without loss of time.—Lady E. S. Wortley, 'Travels,' p. 120.
- 1855       A pause was made for a reply  
            To what had just been stated;  
            But they the Giant could not spy;  
            He had *absquatulated*.  
  *Weekly Oregonian*, Feb. 24.
- 1855 Strayed, stolen, lost, *absquatulated*, muertoed, mime-loosed, or run away, one Alonzo Leland.—*Id.*, Aug. 4.
- 1862 Rumor has it that a gay bachelor, who has figured in Chicago for nearly a year, has skedaddled, *absquatulated*, vamosed, and cleared out.—*Rocky Mtn. News*, Denver, May 10.
- 1862 We'll jest keep close for a few days, and then *absquatilate* with the horses.—*Harper's Weekly*, June 7.

**Accelerator.** A velocipede. [Obs.]

- 1819 The *accelerator*, or walking expedition, is a machine invented by Baron Charles de Drais [of Baden].—*Mass. Spy*, May 19, from *The Boston Intelligencer*.
- 1861 The earliest example of the word, as signifying a machine, except the above, appears to occur in G. M. Musgrave's 'By-Roads,' p. 124. Cotgrave has it (1611) as the equivalent of Fr. *Avanceur* (N.E.D.).

**Acknowledge the corn.** To yield the point in question. Mr. De Vere attributes the invention of the phrase to Hon. A. Stewart, when Mr. Wickliffe of Kentucky, in a Congressional debate (1828), acknowledged the corn: the point being that one of the States, which was said to export corn, in fact fed corn to its hogs, and exported it in that shape. The quotations show that the N.E.D., which is very seldom wrong, has erroneously classed the word "corn," as thus used, under "a horny induration." (See 1853, 1857.)

- 1840 David Johnson *acknowledged the corn*, and said that he was drunk.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, July 14.
- 1842 Your honor, *I confesses the corn*. I was royally drunk.—*Spirit of the Times*, Philadelphia, March 16.
- 1846 *N. Y. Herald* (N.E.D.).
- 1846 I hope he will give up the argument, or, to use a familiar phrase, "*acknowledge the corn*."—Mr. Speight of Mississippi in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 28: *Congressional Globe*, p. 275.



**Across lots—contd.**

- 1853 [We were] well armed with the weapons of death, to send them to hell *cross lots*.—The same, July 31 : *id.*, i. 171.
- 1869 I came *cross lots* from Aunt Sawin's, and I got caught in those pesky blackberry bushes, in the graveyard.—H. B. Stowe, 'Old Town Folks,' chap. vi.
- 1889 [An army wagon train] wound its serpentine course along the country, up hill and down dale, appearing much as if it had jumped the track, and was going *across lots* to its destination.—Billings, 'Hard Tack and Coffee,' p. 351.

**Addition, So and So's.** A suburb.

- 1786 Found, in *Howard's* new *Addition* to Baltimore-Town, 127 Panes of Glass.—Advt., *Md. Journal*, Jan. 6.
- 1788 About 500 Lots in *Rogers's Addition* to Baltimore-Town, which have never been leased.—*Id.*, Feb. 19.

The practice of naming new suburbs in this way still continues.

**Administration Candidate, Man, Paper, &c.** One that supports the existing administration.

- 1827 The pertinacity of one of the *Administration Candidates* in this district [of Kentucky].—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 12.
- 1827 We now give the other side of the story from the Reporter, the *administration paper*.—*Id.*
- 1827 A large party of *Administration men* passed the court house.—*Id.*
- 1838 Who have been the leaders of the *Administration party* for eight years past ?—Mr. Hall in the N.Y. Assembly : *The Jeffersonian* (Albany), March 10, p. 31.
- 1839 Such as we had before—six good *Administration men*, and three men disposed to investigate. Six men ready to vote for any despotic principle advanced by the Executive, and three who stand up for the right of inquiry.—Mr. Wise in Congress : *id.*, June 12, p. 381.
- 1840 Mr. Johnson of Maryland believed they would rally and rout the *Administration candidate*, "horse, foot, and dragoons."—House of Representatives, Jan. 28 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 150.
- 1840 Mr. Duncan of Ohio adverted to the abuse which was daily heaped on the *Administration party*.—April 10 ; *id.*, p. 319.
- 1841 Have not the General Government and *Administration States* said and done enough to make a prudent man pause ? —Mr. Southard of New Jersey, U.S. Senate, Jan. 16 : *id.*, p. 368, Appendix.
- 1846 The Whig party dated as far back as 1832 or 1834 ; before that time they had been known as "The National Republican party," as "The American System party," the "*Administration party*," and "All the decency party."—Mr. Sawyer of Ohio, House of Representatives, Dec. 28 : *id.*, p. 90.

**Administration Candidate, &c.—*contd.***

1850 Where was the *Administration party*? Where was the Democratic party? They were disbanded—broken to pieces.—Mr. Giddings of Ohio, House of Representatives, June 24: *id.*, p. 1285.

**Admire.** A survival, still occasionally met with, of the old use of the word.

1836 I said, "I should *admire* to bet some gentleman \$10 on the bay." A Mr. Nash snapped me up like a duck does a June-bug.—'A Quarter Race in Kentucky,' p. 15. (1846.)

**Adobe or Adobie.** A brick not kiln-dried.—*Spanish.*

1834 The houses in Costa Rica are built of *adobes* or undried [? sun-dried] bricks.—J. L. Stephens, 'Central America,' p. 224. (1854.) N.E.D.

1845 Fort Laramie is built of *adobes*. The walls are about two feet thick, and twelve or fourteen feet high, the tops being picketed or spiked.—Joel Palmer, *Journal*, p. 27. (Cincinnati, 1847.)

1849 The house of Mr. Johnson is a small building of two rooms, one half constructed of logs, the other of *adobes* or sun-dried bricks.—E. Bryant, 'What I saw in California,' p. 241 (N.Y.).

1852 I know enough about rock. If a man should undertake to put me up a stone house, I should wish him to build it of *adobie* instead, and then I should have a good house.—Brigham Young, Oct. 9: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 220.

[He was contending that the Temple at Salt Lake City should be built of *adobie*, on account of its supposed durability; but he gave way, and it was built of hewn stone.]

1853 The houses built were some of hewn logs, and some of *adobies* (dried bricks), all neat and comfortable.—*Millennial Star*, xv. 458.

1853 Supposing that Adam was formed actually out of clay, he would have been an *adobie* to this day. He would not have known anything.—Brigham Young, Oct. 23: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 6.

1855 In New Mexico and Salt Lake City, "*adobes*," made of well-tempered clay, eight inches square and sixteen inches in length, dried in the sun, are used for building purposes.—*Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, Kansas, Jan. 27.

1856 A little *adobe* building used as a court room.—*Phoenixiana*, p. 204 (N.Y.).

1867 The quarters are "*adobe*," nothing more or less than sun-dried brick, made and dried after the exact method pursued by the children of Israel.—Letter of Gen. Custer, April 12: Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 555.

1888 One of my friends was stationed at a post where the quarters were old and of *adobe*, and had been used during the war for stables.—Mrs. Custer, *id.*, p. 175.

**Advertise, n.** An advertisement : compare the use of combine, invite, &c.

**1837** The “*advertise*,” as Power calls it, had the effect of producing him a visitor.—*Public Ledger*, March 23 (Phila.).

**Advertisement**, with accent on the penult : still much in use.

**1785**

If any Gemman wants a wife  
(A partner as 'tis term'd for life)  
An *advertisement* answers well,  
And quickly brings the pretty belle.  
*Mass. Spy, June 23.*

**Affiliate.** Erroneously used instead of Fraternize.

1852 Can we *affiliate* with the Whigs? Never.—Mr. Hillyer of Georgia, House of Repr., March 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 322, Appendix.

1860 [Mr. Douglas] ceased to *affiliate* with the Democratic party because of difference on a particular question.—Mr. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, U.S. Senate, Jan. 12: *id.*, p. 426.

1860 The party in the South that *affiliates* with the Republicans.  
—*The Times*, Nov. 28. (N.E.D.)

1879 To *affiliate* somewhat coolly with the party of reconstruction. — A. Tourgee, 'A Fool's Errand,' p. 125. (N.E.D.)

**Affiliations.** Friendly relations.

1852 Certain merchants with whom he has *affiliations* in New Mexico.—Mr. Weightman of N. Mex., House of Repr., March 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 323, Appendix.

**Agolia.** An animal of the deer tribe.

1814 The dressed skins of the elk, the antelope, and the *agolia*.—  
H. M. Brackenbury, *Journal*, p. 252

**Ahead of.** An expression originally nautical: used by Lord Anson, 1748. (N.E.D.)

1825 I was working, all the time, to get *ahead of* Edith.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 385. (N.E.D.)

1860 "Is that in Joe Miller?" "I think not, sir. I flatter myself that I is a little *ahead of Joe*."—*Knickerbocker*, lv. 92. (June.)

**1864** All European countries are *ahead of us* in this matter.—  
J. G. Holland, 'Letters to the Joneses,' p. 68.

**Air line.** A direct or "bee" line.

1840 As gentlemen seemed to suppose it proper that we should travel by an *air line* to and from Washington City, it might be proper to see if we could not subsist on air while we resided here.—Mr. Clay of Alabama, U.S. Senate, June 12: *Congressional Globe*, p. 459.

**Air line**—*contd.*

1847 A snake, clutched by an eagle, is one of the emblems of the armorial bearings of Mexico. If this plan of fighting to an *air line* is adopted, the proud bird will soon be powerless.—Mr. Cass of Michigan in the U.S. Senate, Feb. 10: *id.*, p. 369.

1853 This "*air line*" runs its whole length through a country . . . eminently adapted for the construction of a railroad.—Mr. Borland of Arkansas, U.S. Senate, Feb. 18: *id.*, p. 674.

**Alarmist.** Whether this word originated in England or in America is doubtful

1800 The little *alarmist* Jacobin doctor found he had mistaken his man.—*The Aurora*, Nov. 28 (Phila.).

1802 The panic of this *alarmist* is very great.—Sydney Smith. (N.E.D.)

**Alewife.** The *Clupea serrata*, a fish like a herring.

1678 The coming up of a Fish called *Aloofes*.—Winthrop, *Phil. Trans.*, xii. 1066. (N.E.D.)

1705 The *Old-Wife*, a Fish not much unlike a herring.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' ii. 31.

1772 A few Barrels of very good *Alewives* to be sold.—*Boston Gazette*, April 6.

1789 See the bold Hampshirites on Springfield pour,  
The fierce Tauntonians croud the *alewife* shore.  
'Am. Museum,' v. 95. (From a fictitious epic, 'The Anarchiad.')

1792 With these are caught salmon, shad, *alewives*, smelts, and lampreys.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 90.

1798 Act of Massachusetts, March 1, "for the preservation of Salmon, Shad, and *Alewives*."

1799 For sale, a few barrels *Alewives* in good order.—*Massachusetts Mercury*, Feb. 5.

1801 An "Act to regulate the *Alewive* Fishery."—*Mass. Spy*, June 24.

1824 Judge Lincoln always places as many dry *alewives* before his sheep as they can eat.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, Feb. 23.

1824 It is calculated that 40,000 *alewives* were taken in Plymouth at one haul last week.—*Mass. Spy*, May 19.

**Algerine.** A pirate. See quotations.

1844 The gentleman from Rhode Island had talked of "ruffianism" in that state, and of "*Algerines*"; but if the proposition he had made was not a specimen of "*Algerineism*," he apprehended it was not to be found.—Mr Rathbun of N.Y., House of Representatives, March 8: *Cong. Globe*, p. 360.

1844 They have called the law for punishing treason an *Algerine* law; they have denominated us the *Algerine* party; and they have talked a great deal about *Algerine* cruelties.—Mr. Potter of Rhode Island, Ho. of Rep., March 12: *id.*, p. 271, App.



- All creation, all nature, all wrath.** Everybody, everything.
- 1819 Father and I have just returned from the balloon—*all nature* was there, and more too.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 3.
- 1824 They said too 'twould shoot like *all nater*,  
'Tis singlar what stories they tell.  
*Woodstock (Vt.) Observer*, Feb. 17, from *The Jefferson Republican*.
- 1824 And when I got into the boat,  
The sailors sung out, "smoke his tail,"  
And laughed like *all nater* afloat,  
And cried, "twig a bear under sail."  
*Salem Observer*, March 6.
- 1825 "Possible!" cried one:—"that beats *all nater*."—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 158.
- 1825 Without even a civil guess, to make it go down sleek. It beats *all nater*.—*Id.*, iii. 145.
- 1833 There was a hive of honey, and the honey was running away like *all natur*.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' ii. 63 (Lond.).
- 1833 I could eat like *all wrath*. . . . [He shall clear out], or I'll be down on him like *all wrath* anyhow.—*Id.*, ii. 64, 77.
- 1833 He held back like *all wrath*, and wouldn't take any thing.—*Id.*, iii. 199.
- 1834 The Gineral got hornety as *all nature*.—'Letters of Major Jack Downing,' p. 126 (N.Y.).
- 1839 It ain't so bad a place to camp, if it didn't rain so like *all natur*.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Wild Scenes,' i. 60 (Lond.).
- 1839 He pulls like *all creation*, as the woman remarked when the horse ran away with her.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, iv. 363.
- 1840 See CAVORT.
- 1845 Folks 'll get pretty soon so that they can't go out of doors at all, and they 'll have *all creation* roofed over to keep the cold out.—*Id.*, xi. 84.
- 1852 I know summat about redskins. This 'ere beats *all natur*.—H. C. Watson, 'Nights in a Block-house,' p. 47.
- 1858 If you had the tire of *all creation* straightened out for a crowbar.—'Autocrat,' chap. vi.
- 1862 He'd never thought o' borryin from Esau like *all nater*,  
An' then confiscatin' all debts to sech a small pertater.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 1.
- 1862 But I don't love your cat'logue style, do you?  
Ez ef to sell *all Natur* by vendoo. *Id.*, No. 6.
- 1862 To these examples may be added Mr. Lowell's ingenious variation in 'Biglow P.,' 2nd S., No. 7:  
Ther's critters yit thet talk an' act  
Fer w'ut they call Conciliation;  
They'd hand a buff'lo-drove a tract  
When they wuz madder than *all Bas'm*.



**All on one stick. In combination.**

- 1830 He kept a kind of hotel and grocery store, "*all on one slick*," as we say.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 18 (Providence, R.I.).

**All out doors. The whole country.**

- 1844 A great strapping woman as tall as *all out-doors*.—"J. Slick," 'High Life in New York,' ii. 60. (N.E.D.)
- 1847 Wild turkeys? Oh yes—*all out doors* was full of them.—Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 196 (Phila.).
- 1848 It takes a mind like Dannel's, fact, ez big ez *all ou'doors*,  
'To find out thet it looks like rain, arter it fairly pours.  
'Biglow Papers,' 1st Series, No. 9.
- 1861 Ourn's the fust thru-by-daylight train,  
With *all ou'doors* for deepot.  
*Id.*, 2nd Series, No. 1.

**All to pieces. Completely.**

- 1839 "I know him *all to pieces*," replied the gentleman.—Charles F. Briggs, 'Harry Franco,' i. 27.
- 1847 I knew him *all to pieces* as soon as I caught sight of him.—*Id.*, 'Tom Pepper,' i. 79.

## Alleviator.

- 1824 "Jenks's *Alleviator*," advertised in *The Mass. Spy*, Dec. 15, was a contrivance for raising sick and wounded persons from bed, in order to change the linen, &c.

## All-fired. A modification of Hell-fired.

- 1756 He is a *h-ll-fired* good creature. — W. Tolderoy, 'Two Orphans.' (N.E.D.)
- 1833 See what a *hell-fired* noise the watch makes.—'The Down-Easters,' i. 79.
- 1835 His boss gin him a most *all-fired* cut with a horsewhip.—*Boston Pearl*, Nov. 28.
- 1837 Star's an *all-fired* good ox—he'll draw more'n any two oxen in town.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ii. 149.
- 1845 The doctor'll charge an *all-fired* price to cure me, I s'pect.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xxvi. 182 (Aug.).
- 1847 I was so *all-fired* blowed that I hadn't wind enough left to laugh.—'The Great Kalamazoo Hunt,' p. 50 (Phila.).
- 1848 The whole town came to see the man who had got the *all-fired* big nose.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxi. 339 (April).
- 1848 The fust thing I know'd I got a most *all-fired* skeer, that made me jump clear off the side-walk into the street.—Major Jones's 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 63 (Phila.).
- 1850 If you provoke me to it, you will get *all-firedly* licked.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 108 (Boston).
- 1852 In my opinion, Dan Baxter would make an *all-fired* good deacon.—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 181 (Aug.).
- 1855 Here is the *all-firedest* fence yet.—*Weekly Oregonian*, June 30.

**All-fired—contd.**

- 1856 You may think I'm a sucker ; but I've used them things enough in the mines to know that that 'ere *all-fired* machine is not "hydrollicks."—*S. F. Call*, Dec. 5.
- 1857 You pitiful catamaran, you're too *all-fired* mean to kill.—*Knick. Mag.*, i. 36 (July).
- 1861 I don't mind tellin' ye about a *gol-fired* rumpus I got into down in Salsbury.—Orpheus C. Kerr, Letter 2.
- 1866 O Sall, did you ever see such an *all-fired* sight of shoes ?—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 289.
- 1872 You were too *all-fired* lazy to get a stick of wood.—J. M. Bailey, 'Folks in Danbury,' p. 80.
- 1885 I'm Abel Doolittle, that's who I am ; an ef I hadn't the *all-firdest* nicest farm in all these parts, afore your bummers come along, I'll swell up an sneeze.—Admiral Porter's 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 184 (N.Y.).
- See also JO-FIRED.

**All-overish. Uncomfortable.**

- 1833 I tell you what, it made me feel quite ALL-OVERISH.—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' p. 52 (N.Y.).
- 1855 I grew—*all-over-ish*—no other phrase expresses it.—*Putnam's Mag.*, vi. 575 (Dec.).

**All possessed, like. Like everything.**

- 1833 He struck his fists together like *all possessed*.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 218 (1860).
- 1857 He'd carry on like *all possessed*—dance, and sing, and tell stories, jest as limber and lively as if he'd never hefted a timber.—*Putnam's Mag.*, ix. 45 (Jan.).
- 1862 [He said] how the rebils had licked him, and was drivin him back like *all possessed*.—'Major J. D.,' May 26.
- 1872 [The room] doos smell like *all possest*.—'Poet at the Breakfast Table,' chap. viii.
- 1878 She dropped a pan o' hot oysters into the lap of a customer and set him to swearin' and dancin' like *all possessed*.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 184.

**Allow. To be of the opinion that, to admit. The N.E.D. cites Baret's 'Alvearie,' 1580**

- 1801 We *allow* it was merit for Mr. Jefferson not to hinder it.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 11.
- 1825 Her large eyes would sparkle—so the men *allowed*—like the mischief.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 28.
- 1840 She said she would *allow* he was the most beautiful complected child she had ever seen.—*Knick. Mag.*, xv. 131.
- 1843 Well, Johnny, what do you *allow* sang's done with, out thare in Chi-ne ?—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 156. [*Sang* is ginseng.]
- 1843 She *allowed* her Bill could lick are a man in the 'varsal world.—*Id.*, ii. 158.

**Allow**—*contd.*

- 1844 "Would you be so kind as to accommodate a stranger with a bowl of bread and milk?" "Well, I *allow* I couldn't."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 164.
- 1851 [She] '*lowed* it was dangerous for me to stay on the deck.—'Widow Rugby's Husband,' &c., p. 50.
- 1866 Where is Hamlin? I *allow* that he is dead, or I would ask him too.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 23.
- 1866 Lowell cites Hakluyt, 1558, but says that *allow* in the sense of affirm is "never heard in New England." (?)

**Almighty.** Monstrous.

- 1824 Such "*almighty*" nonsense (to speak *transatlanticè*) no eye has ever beheld.—De Quincey. ('N.E.1.')
- 1848 I felt *almighty* blue.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 109.
- 1857 If you went into your field, and you found an *almighty* big mustard stalk, &c.—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, July 26: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 87.

**Almighty Dollar, The.** This phrase was used by Washington Irving in his 'Creole Village,' 1837; and was claimed by him in the edition of 1855, which is to be found in vol. iv. p. 36 of Constable's 'Miscellany of Foreign Literature.' The passage is as follows:—

"As we swept away from the shore, I cast back a wistful eye upon the moss-grown roofs and ancient elms of the village, and prayed that the inhabitants might long retain their happy ignorance, their absence of all enterprise and improvement, their respect for the fiddle, and their contempt for *the almighty dollar*. (Note) This phrase, used for the first time in this sketch, has since passed into current circulation, and by some has been questioned as savouring of irreverence. The author, therefore, owes it to his orthodoxy to declare that no irreverence was intended, even to the dollar itself,—which, he is aware, is daily becoming more and more an object of worship."

The expression had acquired currency before the year 1837, for it occurs in quotation-marks (*vide infra*) in Dec., 1836, in an article severely reflecting on Gov. Isaac Hill of New Hampshire. But there is no reason to doubt that Mr. Irving invented it. Possibly he had in mind Ben Jonson's "Almightie gold."—See a contribution by Mr. Matthews, 'N. & Q.,' 11 S. iii. 211.

- 1836 "*The Almighty Dollar*" is the only object of worship.—*Public Ledger*, Dec. 2 (Phila.).
- 1843 If (as a foreigner has flung at us) the "*almighty dollar*" is not always on [an American's] tongue, you may be quite sure that it is nearest his heart.—*Lowell Offering*, iv. 5.
- 1850 That class of people, sneered at by the gentleman from N. Carolina, but most invaluable, who seek the "*almighty dollar*," and the comforts and education it furnishes.—Mr. Butler of Conn., House of Repr., March 12: *Con. Globe*, p. 306, Appendix.

**Almighty dollar—contd.**

- 1852 Here is a speculation in which dollars and cents can be made, with which the *almighty dollar* has to play a part.—Mr. Mace of Indiana, Ho. of Rep., Feb. 20: *id.*, p. 614.
- 1855 An extra month's delay of the brig, which would amount to about 500 *Almighty Dollars*.—Letter to the *Olympia* (W. T.) *Pioneer and Democrat*, March 3.
- 1856 They talk about "*the almighty dollar*" governing the Yankees; but let me tell you it governs the whole species.—Mr. Davidson of Louisiana, House of Repr., Dec. 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 114, Appendix.

**Altar.** (See second quotation.) Canting use of the word.

- 1851 What seemed to be their annual re-appearance at the *altar*.—S. Judd, 'Margaret,' i. 151.
- 1874 [He] invited the penitents into the enclosed pen-like place called the *altar*.—Edward Eggleston, 'The Circuit Rider,' p. 204 (Lond. 1895).

**Amalgamation.** The mingling of the black and the white races. The word is used by Delolme, 1775 (N.E.D.), with reference to Normans and Saxons.

- 1839 The Senator further makes the broad charge that Abolitionists wish to enforce the unnatural system of *amalgamation*. We deny the fact.—Mr. Morris of Ohio, U.S. Senate, Feb. 9: *Cong. Globe*, p. 174, Appendix.
- 1840 Mr. Johnson of Maryland considered the question of abolition was but one degree in the rear of *amalgamation*.—House of Representatives, Jan. 28: *id.*, p. 150.
- 1847 "*Amalgamation*," even by marriage, is not at all dreaded [in Texas]. Parties of white and coloured persons not unfrequently come over from Louisiana.—'Life of Benj. Lundy,' p. 117 (Phila.).

**Ambition, v.** To aspire, to aim at.

- 1688 Each *ambitioning* to engross as much as they can.—Clayton, *Phil. Trans.* (N.E.D.)
- 1818 Who *ambitioned* to be his correspondent.—Thomas Jefferson, 'Writings' (1830), iv. 453. (N.E.D.)
- 1857 The idea was rather above my head, and I didn't *ambition* it.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 39 (Jan.).
- 1861 He harped on the "Jurist" part of the matter, which is a character I rather *ambition*.—'Letters of Lord Blachford,' Feb. 23, p. 230.

**Ambitious.** See quotation..

- 1837 The fight had made him as *ambitious* as a wild cat. (Note) In Western parlance, vicious....He's never *ambitious*, except among Injuns and horses.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 23, 86 (Lond.).

**Amen Corner.** That part of a meeting-house occupied by persons who assist the preacher with occasional and irregular responses. Also, by analogy, a herd of political *claqueurs*.

1904 They were in their places in the *amen corner*, to the right of the crude pulpit.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 67.

1910 The famous *Amen corner* in New York tries to keep up traditions, but without the old Fifth Avenue Hotel, and substituting for Platt, Depew, and Hiscock the names of McGill, Anderson, and Little, the recent acts are not of national importance.—*Boston Herald*, April 6.

**America, American,** as applied to the colonists. [The word *American* was applied to the American Indians far into the eighteenth century : as in the Wesley hymn,

The dark *Americans* convert,  
And shine in every pagan heart.]

1647 Divers make it an article of our *American* creed.—Ward, 'Simple Cobbler of Agawam,' p. 24. (N.E.D.)

1743 Under the heading, *America*, news is collected from Philadelphia, New-York, Newport, and Woodstock. — *Boston Evening Post*, Aug. 22.

1759 Mr. Pratt (afterwards Lord Camden) said to Mr. Franklin, "For all what you *Americans* say of your loyalty, I know you will one day throw off your dependence on this country." — Wm. Gordon, 'Hist. Am. Revol.,' i. 136 (Lond., 1788).

1764 *America* can answer all expenses of government.—*Providence Gazette*, Aug. 18.

1766 When the resolution was taken in this house to tax *America*, I was ill in my bed....I would fain know by whom an *American* is represented here....The Gentleman tells us, *America* is almost in open rebellion. I rejoice that *America* has resisted.—Speech of William Pitt in Parliament, *Boston Ev. Post*, May 12.

1774 [He] asked whether it was not better to give up to the *Americans*.—Thos. Hutchinson's 'Diary,' Dec. 21.

1787 The *Americans* are amphibious animals. They cannot be confined to the land alone.—Letter from Captain John Sullivan, March 1, *Am. Museum*, iii. 437.

1791 *America* is used very generally both by writers and public speakers, when they only intend the territory of the United States....It may have come into use, as being shorter to say *Americans*, than citizens of the United States. —Letter to *The Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Feb. 16.

1795 Shall it be said in Europe, that *the American nation* is insensible to merit ?—*Gazette of the U.S.*, March 2.

**America.** The States, as distinguished from the Territories  
See STATES, THE,

**Americanize.** To make American. Pickering, 1816. (N.E.D.)

1802 I do not think you can do better than to fix here for awhile, till you can become again *Americanized*, and understand the map of the country.—Tho. Jefferson to Joel Barlow, who was abroad, May 3.

1824 In 1824, General Jackson wrote to Dr. Coleman of N. Carolina: "We have been too long subject to the British merchants. It is time that we should become *Americanized*."—Mr. M'Clean of Pennsylvania, House of Repr., June 18, 1846: *Cong. Globe*, p. 992.

**Amy Dardin.** Amy's case came to be a proverb for procrastination.

1803 This *Amy Dardin* is a Virginian, and has unremittingly applied to every Congress for nine years past for compensation.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 7. See also *Mass. Spy*, Jan. 11, 1804. [She was administratrix of David Dardin's estate.]

1817 He and *Amy Dardin's* horse alike have run their race, and their claims have survived them.—James K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' i. 190 (N.Y.).

1835 [It would be] better than hanging on like *Amy Dardin* for fifty years; and then get pay for a horse pressed during the Revolution; and indeed this case of *Amy Dardin* shews much of the course of proceeding.—Col. Crockett's 'Tour,' p. 114 (Phila.).

**Anaconda.** This term was applied to General M'Clellan's army, which was at one time expected to "crush the rebellion."

1862 How ridiculous was the "*anaconda* theory" of crushing the rebellion!—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxviii. 63.

1863 [The army] was the *anaconda*, for so the people had christened it.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' ii. 471.

1879 The folds of the traditional "*Anaconda*" that the *N.Y. Herald* had so graphically depicted as encircling the South.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xi. 119.

**Anagreeta.** See quotation.

1775 *Anagreeta* is the corn gathered before maturity, and dried in an oven or the hot sun....[It makes] a fine mixture in puddings, especially with pease; but this is only practised in the provinces of New York and New Jersey.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 122 n.

**Ante off, ante up.** To exchange, to pay up.

1857 I did hear that you *anted off* 1000 shares in trade for Texas lands.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlix. 43 (Jan.).

1861 I have had to *ante up* at the rate of \$200.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Aug. 10 (Bartlett).

1888 If you cannot be a captain  
Of a famous base-ball nine,  
You can *ante up* your fifty cents,  
And at the players whine.

*N.Y. Mercury*, July 21 (Farmer).

**Anti-federalist.** A name applied to the followers of Thomas Jefferson.

1788 This town [Carlisle, Pa.] is now divided into two distinct parties, Federalists and *Antifederalists*.—*Maryland Journal*, Feb. 18.

1788 The famous Dr. Spring asked a lady on which side she was, fed. or *antifed*.—*Id.*, June 3.

1798 And these fine fellows should be led  
By Lyon, sturdy *Antifed*,  
Who ought to howl with broken head.  
*Farmer's Weekly Museum* (New-year piece).

1799 Terms of the most virulent and contemptuous reproach:—Democrat, Jacobin, and *Anti-federalist*....At the formation of the Federal Constitution, the minority were termed *Anti-federalists*; the majority, with Mr. Hamilton, took the name of Federalists. [Each of these terms is discussed at some length.]—*The Aurora*, July 4 (Phila.).

1800 By [the nickname] *anti-federalist*, the same is meant as by jacobin, republican, democrat, and the like.—*Id.*, Nov. 28.

**Anti-fogmatic.** See quot. 1788, 1789.

1788 As for children, I destroy them, by persuading their parents that a dram of raw rum or whisky is necessary for them every morning, *to keep the fog out of their throats*.—Dialogue between a Sword and a Hogshead of Spirits, *American Museum* (Phila.).

1789 [The great utility of Rum] has given it the medical name of an *Antifogmatic*. The quantity taken every morning is in exact proportion to the thickness of the fog.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 12.

1821 See Appendix, No. XXXIII.

1825 The half-pint of whiskey, which every man takes in the morning, first thing he does after getting up, is called an *anti-fogmatic*.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 14 (Lond.).

1829 The takers of *anti-fogmatics*, juleps, or other combustibles.—*Savannah (Ga.) Mercury*, July 1.

1833 "Do you know that our particular friend J—— kicked the bucket last night?" "You don't say so! Will you take an *anti-fogmatic*?" "Don't care if I do."—First number of *The Baltimore Sun*, Sept. 3.

1837 Is that other *anti-fogmatic* ready?—*Knicker. Mag.*, x. 437 (Nov.).

1840 The learned counsel offers to prove that Tim had that morning taken a little dust of grog, that is to say an eye-opener, and a sleep-disturber, and a gum-tickler, and a gall-breaker, and an *anti-fogmatic*, and it may be two or three small horns more, which no gentleman need to be ashamed on.—*Daily Pennant* (St. Louis), May 14.



**Anti-fogmatic—contd.**

- 1845 We wish the present generation was a little more *anti-fogmatical*.—*Nauvoo Neighbor*, Feb. 26.
- 1852 Tom Nettles [was] mixing a couple of rosy *anti-fogmatics*.—‘As Good as a Comedy,’ p. 134 (Phila.).
- 1855 A thirsty throat, to which anything like delay in an *anti-fogmatic* is almost certain bronchitis.—W. G. Simms, ‘Border Beagles,’ p. 55 (N.Y.).

**Anxious seat.** Mr. Arthur B. Reeve, in *Munsey’s Mag.*, May, 1909, p. 164, says that Chas. G. Finney first used this term at Rochester, N.Y., in the eighteen-thirties. The expression explains itself.

- 1835 I was speedily led to conclude that [the preacher] was about to try the *anxious seat*.—Dr. Andrew Reed, ‘Visit to America,’ i. 13.
- 1835 The other measure, which is, I believe, altogether new, has received the somewhat barbarous and canting denomination of “*Anxious Seat*.”—*Id.*, ii. 35.
- 1837 Both prescribed one principle, “*the anxious seat*.”—*Knicker. Mag.*, x. 141 (Aug.).
- 1837 Settin’ on the *anxious benches*.—Haliburton, ‘Clock-maker’ (1862), p. 232. (N.E.D.)
- 1842 On the front bench, before the platform, were young females, occupying what is called “*the anxious seat*,” most of them in convulsions.—Buckingham, ‘E. and W. States,’ i. 515. [This was at a Methodist “Revival” in Carlisle, Pa.]
- 1842 Mr. Buchanan of Pennsylvania said he was on the *anxious seat*, and the senator from Kentucky (Mr. Clyde) had brought him to it.—U.S. Senate, Feb. 14: *Congressional Globe*, p. 231.
- 1853 You tell them to go to *the anxious seat* to get forgiveness.—Brigham Young, July 24: ‘Journal of Discourses,’ i. 240.
- 1857 I did not go to *the anxious seat* myself.... Very little use in my going to *the anxious bench*.—George A. Smith, Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 2: *id.*, v. 104–5.

**Any.** At all. [Similarly *some* for *somewhat*, and *none* for *not at all*.]

- 1817 If our readers are *any* like ourselves, we think they cannot help laughing.—*Analectic Mag.*, ix. 437 (Phila.).
- 1823 I much need [a nap], not having slept *any* for several nights.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, Dec. 2.
- 1827 It can’t be that he has been examined and cross-questioned, and differed *any*.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 8.
- 1833 Aint tired *any*, air ye?—‘The Down-Easters,’ i. 105.
- 1843 Suppose you could swear one of them kept a stud of wild tigers, would it help you *any*?—‘Cornelius Mathews,’ p. 85.



**Any**—*contd.*

- 1846 The captain used to boast that he could pack a gallon without its setting him back *any*.—‘Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.,’ p. 103 (Phila.).
- 1846 Well, the bear didn’t seem to mind him *none*.—*Id.*, p. 190.
- 1852 Our adventures slept *none* that night.—J. B. Jones, ‘Col, Vanderbomb,’ p. 198 (Phila.).
- 1857 Your words come down jest like rain spatterin’ on a rock. They don’t soak in *any*.—J. G. Holland, ‘The Bay Path,’ p. 32.
- 1869 It is a good tune,—you can’t improve it *any*.—‘Innocents Abroad,’ chap. iv.
- 1875 When you get into a dangerous place, don’t turn coward. That is’nt going to help matters *any*.—Mark Twain, ‘Old Times,’ *Atl. Monthly*, p. 574 (May.).
- 1880 I had never danced *any*, and I determined that I would break the ice.—Peter H. Burnett, ‘Recollections of an Old Pioneer,’ p. 12.
- 1880 The prisoners did not sleep *any* for several nights.—*Id.*, p. 65.
- a.1882 The house-fly can only see a distance of thirty-eight feet, but that never bothers him *any*. He always manages to keep within thirty-seven feet of everything.—*Detroit Free Press*.
- 1888 You don’t want to fool with those Quakers *any*, and don’t you forget it.—*Id.*, Oct. 6 (Farmer).

**Anyways.** In any manner. Also **No ways.**

- a.1560 All those who are *any ways* afflicted.—‘Common Prayer.’
- 1842 We can’t make them *any ways* comfortable here.—Mrs. Kirkland, ‘Forest Life’ (in Mich.), i. 114 (Lond.).
- a.1848 I can’t crowd it into my narrow belief that Paul’s mental machinery was *any ways* out of kilter.—Dow, Jun., ‘Patent Sermons,’ i. 82.
- 1848 The slavery question aint *no ways* bewilderin’.—‘Biglow Papers,’ 1st Series, No. 5.

**Anywheres** for Anywhere.

- 1856 Have you seen him *anywheres* about?—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 44 (Jan.).
- 1858 The company war mostly white, and as select as could be picked up “*any wheres*.”—*Id.*, lii. 534 (Nov.).

**Apple-bug.** See quotation.

- 1829 *Apple-bugs*, as the country people call that black beetle-shaped insect which frequents summer pools, and which is distinguished for the perfume of the fruit that has given it its name.—J. P. Kennedy, ‘Swallow Barn,’ p. 118. (N.Y., 1851.)

**Apple-butter.** See first quotation.

- 1832 *Apple-butter* . . . is made by stewing apples in new cider, after it has been boiled down to one-third of its bulk.—A Cincinnati Correspondent, *The Mirror*, Lond., May 26.
- 1878 The vain expectancy of *apple-butter*, short-cake, and milk.—‘Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,’ vi. 3 (Richmond, Va.).
- 1880 The delicious milk and elegant *apple-butter* of the glorious valley [of the Shenandoah].—*Id.*, ix. 188.

**Apple-jack.**—Strong cider.

- 1865 The genuine Virginia stimulant known as *apple-jack*, or apple whisky.—*N.Y. Tribune*. (N.E.D.)
- 1885 If there was a barrel, yes, a half-barrel or a runlet, of “*apple jack*” or “peach brandy,” they would find it.—‘Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,’ xiii. 142.

**Appreciate.** (1) To raise in value.

- 1779 Any probable attempt to raise or *appreciate* the value of the money.—P. Webster, ‘Pol. Essays,’ 33. (N.E.D.)

(2) To rise in value.

- 1789–96 A great demand for specie and bills, which occasioned the latter to *appreciate*.—Morse, ‘Am. Geogr.,’ i. 323. (N.E.D.)

**Approbate.** To approve. Obs. in England for two centuries. (N.E.D.)

- 1802 A Boston Editor, in a rage for *approbating* Mr. Jefferson’s mode of addressing Congress.—*The Balance*, Jan. 26, p. 27 (Hudson, N.Y.).
- 1802 The administration of Governor Strong is generally and thoroughly *approbated*.—*Mass. Spy*, March 31.
- 1812 “Diplomas for Physicians and Graduates engrossed according to the latest form *approbated* by the President of Harvard University” advertised by C. Edwards, Public Copyist: *Boston Gazette*, June 25.
- 1859 In this law, the Lord does not *disapprobate* the principle . . . . If the Lord did not intend to *approbate* a crime, he would have reproved him.—Orson Pratt, Mormon Tabernacle, July 24: ‘Journal of Discourses,’ vi. 352–3.
- 1861 [While the Mississippi delegates] regret the necessity for this action, they *approbate* it.—Orville J. Victor, ‘Hist. Southern Rebellion,’ i. 192.

**Area of Freedom.** A phrase which came into use in connexion with the annexation of Texas.

- 1845 Is our aid invoked to relieve [Texas] from a condition of servitude, and extend “*the area of freedom*”? Why, sir, in the same breath in which we are called upon to extend “*the area of freedom*,” we are assured that Texas achieved her independence in the battle of San Jacinto.—Mr. Smith of Indiana, in the House of Representatives, Jan. 8: *Cong. Globe*, p. 79, Appendix.

**Area of Freedom**—*contd.*

- 1845 Mr. Barnard of New York read the preamble to the constitution, in which, he said, there was nothing about "enlarging *the area of freedom*."—The same, Jan. 25: *id.*, p. 188.
- 1845 Mr. McIlvaine of Pennsylvania noticed the proposed extension of the "*area of freedom*."—*Id.*, p. 190.
- 1848 Thet's the reason I want to spread *Freedom's aree*.—*'Biglow Papers,'* No. 5.

**Argonaut.** The adventurers who went to California in 1849 are thus styled. In 1890, Haskins's '*Argonauts of California*' was published (N.Y.).

**Ark, n.** Otherwise a "Kentucky boat," or a "flat boat."

- 1802 A safe and easy Navigation is made for *Arks* and Rafts, with any tolerable head of water, from Columbia to Tidewater.—*Intelligencer*, Feb. 17 (Lancaster, Pa.).
- 1803 These boats are generally called "*Arks*," and are said to have been invented by Mr. Krudger, on the Juniata, about ten years ago.—Thaddeus M. Harris, '*Journal of a Tour*,' April 14 (Boston, 1805, p. 30).
- 1810 Wheat and other grain can be brought down the [Susquehanna] river, in boats or *arks*, and landed at the mill-door, from whence flour can be transported in boats or *arks* to Havre-de-grace and Baltimore.—Advt., *Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, March 3.
- 1817 *Arks*, of which hundreds are on the [Ohio] river.—M. Birkbeck, '*Journey to America*,' p. 50 (Phila.).
- 1817 In the course of the day we passed no fewer than thirteen *arks*, or Kentucky boats, going with produce to [New] Orleans.—John Bradbury, '*Travels*,' p. 198.
- 1817 The usual price is \$75. for each, which will accommodate three or four families, as they carry from 25 to 30 tons; and it frequently happens that the *ark* can be sold for nearly what it cost, six or eight hundred miles lower down.—*Id.*, p. 317.
- 1820 The River [Ohio] is navigated by Steam Boats, Barges, Keel Boats, Flat Boats or *Arks*, Skiffs, Pirogues, Rafts, &c.—*Western Review*, Jan. (Lexington, Ky.).
- 1821 There is no raft nor *ark*, that descends the Susquehanna, that can possibly be worked through this canal.—*Penna. Intelligencer*, June 8 (Harrisburg).
- 1823 A great quantity of flour and other produce has been carried down [the Susquehanna] in *arks* and keel-boats.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, April 4.
- 1829 The captain had housed his all in an *ark*, called in our Western language a flat-boat.—'*Life of S. S. Prentiss*,' p. 31 (1884).
- 1855 The returning crews of these leviathan *arks* of our Western wealth generally follow their leader.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlv. 592 (Dec.).

**Ark, v.** To load upon an ark.

1845 I stood by while all of the animals were *arked*, each one more obstinate than the former.—*St. Louis Reveille*, Aug. 4.

**Ark-wise.** After the fashion of an ark.

1829 The school house was moved *ark-wise* more than a hundred rods.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 9, from the *Buffalo Republican*.

**Arkansas tooth-pick.** A long knife. [Also 'California' and 'Missouri.']

1840 The young gentleman who borrowed a brace of duelling pistols, and an "*Arkansas toothpick*," from our office, is notified, &c.—*Daily Pennant* (St. Louis), July 20.

1855 We mistrust that the author of that statement saw a *Missouri toothpick*, and was frightened out of his wits.—*Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, Kas., June 9.

1856 A weapon only inferior in size and weight to the modern "*California toothpick*."—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 142.

1861 I didn't call but jest on one [Southern gentleman], an' he drawed *toothpick* on me.—'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 1.

1863 [The Border Ruffians] hastened to Price's standard, having ground from their "*Arkansas toothpicks*" the bloodstains of Kansas settlers.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' ii. 278.

1869 A brace of faithful pistols in his belt, and a huge "*Arkansas toothpick*," or bowie knife, in a leather sheath.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 377.

**Arroya, Arroyo.** See quotations. *Spanish*.

1846 An *arroyo*, or small rivulet fed by springs, runs through his rancho.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I saw in California,' p. 269 (Lond., 1849).

1850 Bayard Taylor. ('N.E.D.')

1854 Three miles from San Antonio we crossed the bed of the *arroyo* Alazan, now reduced to a dry mass of gravel.—*Putnam's Mag.*, iii. 258 (March).

1869 Crossing an *arroya*, or dry bed of a creek, near the bottom of the *mesa*, and passing through some dense thickets of mesquit and ocochilla, the struggling family found themselves at the foot of a rocky cliff.—J. Ross Browne, 'Adventures in the Apache Country,' p. 90.

**Artificial.** An artificial flower.

1857 [My wives will say] O dear, are there no ribbons coming? I want an *artificial*, quick.—Brigham Young, Aug. 2: 'Journal of Disc.,' v. 98.

1903 The preachers [a. 1853] used to denounce the sinful wearing of "*artificials*"—by which they meant artificial flowers—in women's bonnets.—Geo. C. Eggleston, 'The First of the Hoosiers,' p. 121 (Phila.).

- Ary.** E'er a. Fielding and Smollett have *arrow* in this sense.  
 1749 I don't believe there is *arrow* a servant in the house.—'Tom Jones.' (N.E.D.)  
 1771 I now carries my head higher than *arrow* private gentlewoman of Vales.—'Humphry Clinker.' (N.E.D.)  
 1852 If he should lose *ary* one of 'em, it would break his heart.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 392 (1860).  
 1855 Cuba was as necessary to our Government as *ary* one of the States.—*Id.*, p. 437.  
 1865 "Your nag is worth *ary* two of my critters," said the man.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 442 (Oct.).  
 1867 Well, says old Bitters, I expect I can  
       Scale a fair load of wood with *e'er a man*.  
                                     Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story,' *id.* (Jan.).

**Ash-cake.** A cake baked in the ashes.

- 1839 Fellows whose richest loaf is corn *ash-cake*, and who use jerked beef and venison with their tea.—Letter from Illinois: *The Jeffersonian*, Jan. 26, p. 399.  
 1844 [A public dinner was given at Jackson, Tenn., in 1840.] At this dinner, a large *ash-cake* was baked, containing about three bushels of corn meal. This was put on the table, and a hickory bush stuck in the centre of it, and three plates put on the *ash-cake*; and out of these plates ate General Jackson, Felix Grundy, and James K. Polk.—Mr. Hardin of Illinois, House of Representatives, March 21: *Congressional Globe*, p. 631, Appendix.  
 1861 Not even a guard being left to keep the *ash-cakes* from stray dogs.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, lvii. 624 (June).

**Ashland Dictator, The.** Henry Clay. See the *Century Mag.*, Dec., 1886.

- 1842 The "one man" resolutions by "*the Ashland dictator*" marked out the line of conduct.... The President could not please both the Chairman [Mr. Adams] and *the Ashland dictator*.—Mr. Colquitt of Georgia, in the House of Repr., Aug. 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 814, App.  
 1842 Well do I remember the declaration of the imperious tenant of *Ashland*, that the Democrats were like criminals on the hangman's cart, waiting only for the order of execution.—Mr. Kennedy of Indiana, the same, Dec. 28: *id.*, p. 74, App.  
 1850 I fancy I can see the indignation.... manifested by the *Sage of Ashland*, as he saw approach this military cortège.—Mr. Olds of Ohio, the same, Aug. 5: *id.*, p. 1148, App.

**Associational.** Belonging to a congregational association.

- 1815 Students must pass through the *associational* or presbyterial examination.—*Boston Qly. Review*, p. 56. ('N.E.D.')
- 1821 [He] attends every *associational* and consociational meeting within his district.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 320.

**Asterism.** A single asterisk. [It usually means \*.\*.]

1796 Morse's 'Am. Geography,' i. 193. ('N.E.D.')

1812 Eight towns (marked with *asterisms*) had elected their members.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 7.

1909 See 'N. & Q.,' 10 S. xi. 83.

**At that.** An intensifying phrase, like *too* or *moreover*.

1830 The march was now hurried on, yet slow *at that*, for I could not walk fast.—*Mass. Spy*, July 28.

1836 His goods are marked so high, he knows that the one who steals them gets a hard bargain *at that*.—*Public Ledger* (Phila.), April 13.

1839 I goes in for toddies strong, as strong as pison *at that*.—*Salem Advertiser*, Sept. 18, from *N.O. Picayune*.

1840 He was fined only a dollar, and went to jail *at that*.—*Daily Pennant* (St. Louis), May 5.

1841 If that member [Mr. Giddings of Ohio] will go to any county in the State of Georgia, and dare to utter but half of what he said here yesterday, he would most certainly be subjected to the infliction of Lynch law, and he might be happy if he escaped *at that*.—Mr. Black of Georgia, House of Representatives, Feb. 9: *Congressional Globe*, p. 165, App.

1845 Our food was of the most unwholesome kind, and scant *at that*.—P. P. Pratt, account of his escape, *The Prophet* (N.Y.), Feb. 1.

1850 Had to take [the mare] or get none, and to buy her *at that*.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Money Penny,' p. 12 (N.Y.).

1851 Some paper which she could not read, nor tell its meaning, and forged *at that*.—Joel H. Ross, 'What I saw in New York,' p. 145 (Auburn, N.Y.).

1854 And then the doggery-keepers got to sellin' licker by the drink, instead of the half-pint, and a dime a drink *at that*. J. G. Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 308.

1855 Miss W. has her instinctive likings, and very romantic ones *at that*.—'Fudge Doings,' i. 156.

1859 This seems to be a game for the Presidency, and a brag game *at that*.—Mr. Thompson of Kentucky, U.S. Senate, Feb. 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1058.

1861 The criticism of such birds by a barn-yard goose, with clipped wings *at that*, isn't fit for much.—*Knicker. Mag.*, lvii. 425 (April).

1867 Eggs at five for a shilling, and not always fresh *at that*.—F. S. Cozzens, 'Sayings of Dr. Bushwhacker,' p. 8.

1896 She had only two calico dresses and one pair of shoes, half-soled *at that*.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 33.

1906 Encroachment of the sort is equivalent to snow in Cairo, and permanent snow *at that*.—Percival Lowell, 'Mars and its Canals,' p. 59 (Macmillan).

**Attacked.** A common mispronunciation among the illiterate. It seldom occurs in print.

1839 They were *attacked* by the town-officers, and sent packing. —*Knick. Mag.*, xiii. 76 (Jan.).

**Aunty.** Applied to an old negro woman: seldom to a white woman, unless in case of relationship. [See also UNCLE, UNKEY.]

1852 So long as the race of good old colored "*aunties*" do the cooking.—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 326 (Oct.).

**Author.** An editor or publisher. Mr. Joseph T. Buckingham, in his 'Specimens of Newspaper Literature,' i. 112 *n.* (Boston, 1850), remarks that in most of the newspapers printed in the early part of the 18th century the word was thus used. Communications are addressed "To the author of the *Courant*," "To the author of the *Rehearsal*," &c. As this meaning is not noted in the N.E.D., it is no doubt American and obsolete.

**Available, availability.** An available person or thing is one that can be used. Thus, ideal candidates are frequently not "available."

1840 Goody Harrison, a gossiping old lady, and an *available*.—*Congressional Globe*, March 6.

1844 *The Eastern Argus* describes the following as the traits of character which, in the estimation of the Whigs, constitute the *ne plus ultra* of "*availability*."—Mr. Bidlack of Pennsylvania, House of Repr., June 4: *id.*, p. 663, App.

1848 All of us prefer [Mr. Clay], but I'm afraid he isn't *available*.—*N.Y. Tribune*, May ——. (Bartlett, who gives three other examples in the same year.)

1848 They had played off with success their great game of "hard cider," "log cabins," and "coon skins," in 1840, and now, attempting to repeat it, they had abandoned their old leader, and adopted *General Availability*, from a belief that he would be able to infuse a little life into the prostrate body . . . of Whiggery.—Mr. Iverson of Georgia, House of Repr., July 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 963.

1854 [July.] Article in *The Knickerbocker Magazine* on "Availability in Candidates for the Presidency," xlv. 1-11.

1854 We will next examine into the qualities for *availability* that the "Little Giant" possesses.—*Id.*, p. 7.

1864 They say McClellan was nominated for his *availability*.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' vii. 340 (Richmond, 1879).

1864 Occasionally a patriot has been "*available*" for carrying out the purposes of politicians. But often imbecility and rascality have been found "*available*."—J. G. Holland, 'Letters to the Joneses,' p. 278.

1909 Such a change would "seriously reduce the market value and *availability* of the city's bonds" [says the Committee].—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 4.

**Away** as an expletive.

- 1827 He wore *away* a black woollen coat and a straw hat.—  
Advt. of a strayed pauper, *Mass. Spy*, Oct. 17.

**Axe to grind.** A purpose to serve.

- 1815 When I see a merchant over-polite to his customers, thinks I, that man has an *axe to grind*.—C. Miner, 'Who'll turn Grindstones?' (N.E.D.)
- 1842 He has an *axe to grind*, just like the rest of us.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' ii. 68.
- 1854 Delazon is some on flattery, especially when he has an *ax to grind*.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Dec. 9.
- 1862 Long 'z A'll turn tu an' *grin'* B.'s *exe*, ef B.'ll help him *grin'* hisn: An' thet's the main idee by which your leadin' men hev risen.—'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.
- 1869 She laughed at him, because he never called unless he had an *axe to grind*.—E. E. Hale, 'Ingham Papers,' p. 121.

**Axe-craft, axery.** The art of felling trees.

- 1843 During the day I took lessons in *axe-craft*....Tom had done in *axery* what Horace pronounces in writing the perfection of the art.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 188-89.

**Axe-man.** See quot. 1792.

- 1777 Five hundred good carpenters, with *ax-men* and sawyers in proportion.—*Maryland Journal*, March 18.
- 1788 Twelve *Axe-men*, dressed in white frocks, with black girdles round their waists (Federal Procession).—*Id.*, July 15.
- 1792 Then follow the *axe-men*, who clear away the bushes and fell the trees.—Belknap, 'N. Hampshire,' iii. 76.
- 1798 The *axemen* had proceeded several miles in cutting the [boundary] line.—*Aurora* (Phila.), Sept. 1.
- 1800 Wanted to Hire, Eighty *Axe-men* and fifteen Team's men, to go to Georgia.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 1.
- 1854 You will nerve the arm of the *axeman* whose energy will lead him to the dark and unbroken forests of Nebraska.—Mr. Campbell of Ohio, House of Repr., March 7: *Cong. Globe*, p. 404, Appendix.



## B

**Babe.** The forms "babe" and "baby" are traced to Gower and Langland in the 14th century. (N.E.D.) "Babe" is exclusively used in the A.V., but is uncommon in England now.

- 1798 Donations received at the Tents near Schuylkill, for the use of the poor. Two bundles new *babe clothes*....sixty-six pieces of new *babe clothes*.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Oct. 18 (Phila.).
- 1802 Kiss the dear little *babe* for me.—*The Coquette*, p. 103 (Charlestown, Mass.).
- 1803 She had a *babe* in her arms, which sustained no other injury than having its hair a little burnt.—*Mass. Spy*, July 20.
- 1816 She was entombed with a *babe* in her arms.—*Id.*, Jan. 24.
- 1822 She left our dear *babe*, wrapped in my great coat, in the snow.—*Id.*, Jan. 9.
- 1829 She was seated near the fire, with the *babe* in her arms, when she was seized with a fit.—*Id.*, Feb. 25: from *The Knoxville Register*.
- 1842 With difficulty Mrs. B. wrapped her two *babes* in thick mantles, and escaped.—'Lowell Offering,' iii. 23.

**Back a letter.** To address it.

**Back and forth.** To and fro. "Back and fore," O.E.

- 1653 He would go *back and fore* along the foresaid rope.—Urquhart's 'Rabelais.' (N.E.D.)
- 1846 The [revivalistic] extravagances of some parts of the West never found their way east of the Alleghenies, such as running *back and forth*, barking like a dog, and uttering inhuman sounds.—W. H. Foote, 'Sketches of North Carolina,' p. 409.
- 1857 They would run here and there, *back and forth*, at full speed along the sands.—Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 138.
- 1878 One I met, who had been *back and forth*, in and out of the [Mormon] church, three times.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 46.

**Back country, back countryman.** The back country is the interior.

- 1755 I herewith send you a small map of the *back country*.—Geo. Washington to Robert Orme, April 2: 'Writings,' i. 145. (Ed. 1889.)
- 1787 The *back country people* have killed three hundred Indians.—'American Museum,' ii. 1 (Chronicle).
- 1792 The United States claimed the *back country* as the property of the whole union.—G. Imlay, 'Topographical Description,' p. 15 (Lond.).

**Back country, Back countryman—contd.**

- 1796 "A new Ballet Dance, called the *Back Countryman*, or, the New Settlers," advertised in the *Gazette of the U.S.*, Nov. 19 (Phila.).
- 1806 In some parts of our *back country*, the orchards have been unusually productive.—*The Repertory*, Boston, Nov. 21.
- 1824 We have no *back country*; here is no thoroughfare for travellers in quest of markets.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, Jan. 12.
- 1845 The boatman knew by his dialect and dress that he was a *back-countryman*.—W. G. Simms, 'The Wigwam and the Cabin,' p. 22 (Lond.).

**Back county.** One in the interior of the State.

- 1788 A *back county* correspondent informs us that an expedition was set on foot against the Indians the beginning of last month.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 11 (Communication from Winchester, Va.).
- 1803 In the *back counties* of Virginia every planter depends upon his Negroes for the cultivation of his lands. To all this may be added that most of the "Backwood's men," as they are called, are emigrants from foreign countries.—Thaddeus M. Harris, 'Journal of a Tour,' June 6, p. 59. (1805.)
- 1805 It must be one of our Candidates from some of the *back counties*.—*The Balance*, April 30, p. 144.
- 1821 [The cattle were] all purchased from *back counties*.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 24.

**Back lands.** Lands in the interior.

- 1681 The *back lands* being....richer than those that lie by navigable rivers.—W. Penn, 'Account of Pennsylvania,' Works (1782), iv. 301. (N.E.D.)
- 1787 A number of fine *Back Lands*; these lands are no catch-pennies.—Advt. *Maryland Gazette*, Nov. 16.
- 1787 *Back lands* for sale.—*Maryland Journal*, Dec. 8.
- 1789 *Back Lands* given for Bonds, Goods, or Property near Baltimore.—*Id.*, Aug. 4.
- 1795 The appreciation of the *back lands* belonging to government.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., July 15.
- 1797 Dr. Romaine's plan was no more than the acquired settlement of *back lands*.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 2.

**Back load.** A load carried on the back.

- 1823 A black fellow was taken up on suspicion, with a *back load* of live turkeys.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 3.
- 1853 You might go round exhibiting a *back load* of gold.—Brigham Young, June 5: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 255.
- 1854 We had to look out for ourselves, and then take a large *back load* besides.—H. C. Kimball at the Mormon Tabernacle, Nov. 26: *id.*, ii. 160.
- 1856 I have seen them take *back loads* of wood, and then fill their bags with the chips and small sticks.—Brigham Young, April 20: *id.*, iii. 323.

**Back log.** A large log placed at the back of the chimney.

- 1684 The spit stuck in the *back log*.—Increase Mather. (N.E.D.)
- 1788 The snake took shelter behind the *back-log*, until the heat drove him from thence.—‘*Am. Museum*,’ iv. 519 (Sept.)
- 1793 He found his companion lying in a large body of live coals, her head on the *back log* and knees on the forestick.—*Mass. Spy*, March 7.
- 1817 You should make up your fire [in the woods] with a fallen tree for a *back log*.—M. Birkbeck, ‘*Journey in America*,’ p. 166 (Phila.).
- 1824 Does he throw her into the fire, or does he throw her behind the *back log*? No.—*Howard Gazette* (Boston), March 27: from the *Port Folio*.
- 1846 We next proceeded to build a fire, which was facilitated by taking advantage of a dead tree for a *back-log*.—T. B. Thorpe, ‘*Bob Herring*,’ p. 135.
- 1847 A buckeye *backlog* and hickory forestick resting on stone and irons, with a Johnny-cake on a clean ash-board set before it to bake.—Drake, ‘*Pioneer Life in Kentucky*,’ p. 107 (Cincinnati, 1870).
- 1852 The “log” has been placed; the “*back-log*” has surmounted it; the “top-stick” crowns the apex; the “forestick” rests against the “and-irons”; and the intermediate “cob-house” of timber, fired by the faithful “kindling-wood,” is all ablaze, and roaring up the chimney.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxix. 203 (Feb.).
- 1859 It was a cold morning; but the “log” was in the fireplace crowned with the “*back-log*,” “middle-log,” and “top-stick.” [For the rest of the quotation see FORESTICK.]—*Knick. Mag.*, liii. 324.
- 1878 *Backlog* and forestick were soon piled, and kindlings laid.—H. B. Stowe, ‘*Poganuc People*,’ ch. ix.

**Back number, a.** One who is behind the times; a “has-been.”

- 1910 So far as the University of Copenhagen is concerned, Dr. Cook is now a “*back number*.”—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 20.
- 1911 The Trials of a Parson.—If he delivers a written sermon, he is a *back-number*. If he preaches extempore, he is a shallow thinker.—*Pacific Churchman*, May.

**Back of.** Behind, in the rear of.

- 1774 He was ordered by the Selectmen round to the ferry, *back of* the Town, where the Cloaths were examined.—*Boston Evening Post*, April 11.
- 1774 Your Flails perpendicularly fixed just *back of* your right Arm.—*Id.*, Oct. 3.
- 1801 [The body] was found in a coffin, *back of* Bushhill.—*Mass. Spy*, May 27.
- 1805 [I was] walking across the commons, *back of* the Roman chapple (*sic*).—*Balt. Ev. Post*, Sept. 5, p. 2/4.

**Back of—contd.**

- 1823 The prevailing timber on all the uplands *back of* the Oak hills of the Ohio river is beech, &c. — Geo. W. Ogden, 'Letters from the West,' p. 76 (New Bedford).
- 1824 Many of [the meeting-houses in Kentucky] are built with a door *back of* the pulpit, so that the preacher may turn and exhort those who choose to lie grouped out on the grass. — Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 97 (Boston).
- 1832 He saw flourishing grass cut on the declining hill *back of* the City Hall towards the Kolch. — Watson, 'Hist. Tales of New York,' p. 92.
- 1837 The money supposed to have been stolen was found safely deposited in a rat's nest, *back of* the drawer. — 'The Negro Pew,' p. 13 (Boston).
- 1910 *Back of* this provision of equal and uniform taxation in the constitution is the oldest experience that men have had in affairs of government and of justice. — *The Oregonian*, August.

**Back seat, to take a.** To occupy an inferior position ; to sink into obscurity.

- a.1863 I tell you, those able-bodied men who are sleeping in feather beds tonight, while we are standing here in the rain to guard their precious carcasses, must be content to *take back seats* when we get home. — 'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' ix. 133 (Richmond, Va.).
- 1907 That extraordinary view will now be relegated to a *back seat* (!). — *Living Church* (Chicago), Nov. 2.

**Back settlers.** Those who settled in the interior.

- 1755 I tremble at the consequences that this defeat may have upon our *back settlers*. — Geo. Washington to Gov. Dinwiddie, July 18 : 'Writings,' i. 175 (Ed. 1889).

**Back town.** A town in the interior.

- 1822 A gentleman from one of the *back towns* in this State. — *Mass. Spy*, May 22.

**Back track, to take the.** To retreat from one's position.

- 1802 I must have been taking the course which hunters would call the *Back Track*. — *The Balance* (Hudson, N.Y.), April 6, p. 106.
- 1829 The dogs, although on a *back track* of the animal, were fortunately in hearing in time. — *Mass. Spy*, Jan. 14.
- 1837 Surely he is not about to falsify his promise to follow generally in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor ; or does he mean to follow them, as my young friend from Tennessee (Mr. J. W. Crockett) felicitously expresses it, "by *taking the back tracks*." — Mr. Wise of Virginia, in the House of Representatives, Oct. 13 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 322, App.

**Back track**—*contd.*

- 1841 Mr. Jenifer made some observations in relation of certain gentlemen taking "the *back track*."—The same, Feb. 15 : *id.*, p. 178.
- 1841 "See who will take the *back track*, like boys from a hornet's nest."—Mr. Wise of Va., quoted by Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina, the same, Feb. 18 : *id.*, p. 362, App.
- 1847 When the President vetoed the bill [Mr. Wick] took the *back track*.—Mr. Wentworth of Ill., the same, Feb. 2 : *id.*, p. 313.
- 1855 If you'll take my counsel, you'll take the *back track*.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' p. 186 (N.Y.).
- 1857 He has a very praiseworthy aversion to taking the *back track*.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, l. 581 (Dec.).
- 1857 The first law of preservation has admonished Mr. Douglas that he has gone as far in his slavery concessions to the South as he can possibly go, and that....he must *take the back track*.—*N.Y. Herald*, Dec. 26 (Bartlett).

**Backset.** A reverse ; a rebuff. *Scottish.*

- 1721 The people of God have got many *backsets*.—Wodrow, 'Hist.,' ii. 555. (N.E.D.)
- 1816 It would give a *back set*, and might endanger their ultimate success.—J. C. Calhoun, 'Works,' ii. 170 (N.E.D.)

**Backsetting.** Re-ploughing in the autumn.

- 1883 Large or small areas of *backsetting* or stubble plowing.—*Lisbon (Dak.) Star*, Sept. (N.E.D.)

**Back-talk :** sometimes **back chatter.** See quot.

- 1889 *Back talk*, which means answering a superior officer insolently, was a prolific cause for punishments. — J. D. Billings, 'Hard Tack and Coffee,' p. 150 (Boston).
- \*.\* The phrase is not restricted to this instance.

**Back taxes.** Taxes in arrear.

- 1788 They completed an act providing for the payment of the *back taxes* in specifick articles (1786).—Geo. R. Minot, 'Insurrections in Mass.,' p. 60.

**Backbone.** Moral courage.

- 1857 *Backbone* is the material which is designed to make an upright man.—*The Republic*, n.d. (Bartlett).
- 1865 His character was destitute of *backbone*.—*Sat. Rev.*, Feb. 18, p. 195. (N.E.D.)
- 1881 The President [Garfield] did not kick. With that lack of *backbone* which passes so often for Christian resignation, he humbly submitted to as grave an insult as it was possible to put upon a man.—*The Capital* (Washington), July 17.

**Back-handed.** Left-handed, equivocal.

- 1842 This was called "the franking privilege," but to him it had become a *back-handed* privilege....It was no slight labor to superscribe and frank several thousand documents.—Mr. Wright of New York, U.S. Senate, March 2 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 189, Appendix.

**Backing and filling.** The alternate movement of a steamboat. Literal and metaphorical.

- 1848 The steam was well up on both boats, which lay rolling, and *backing and filling*, from the action of the paddles, at the dock.—‘Stray Subjects,’ p. 174.
- 1854 There has been [too] much *backing and filling*, not only upon the Cuban question, but upon every other.—*N.Y. Herald*, June 15 (Bartlett).
- 1854 Men will be sent to Congress who will not “*back and fill*,” and be on one principle for one week, one month, and one moon, and upon another principle another week, and month, and moon.—Mr. Alex. H. Stephens of Georgia, House of Repr., Dec. 11: *Cong. Globe*, p. 57.
- 1855 Now I must ask you, General, what in thunder Mr. Marcy means by *backin’ an’ fillin’* so.—Seba Smith, ‘Major Jack Downing,’ p. 432 (1860).
- 1858 He wound up his wondrous performance by reeling gracefully up to the very youthful Countess, and “*backing and filling*” twice around her, each time imprinting a kiss on her cherry-colored lips.—*Knick. Mag.*, li. 152 (Feb.).
- 1869 How in the world [the Gondolier] can *back and fill*, shoot straight ahead, &c., is a problem to me.—Mark Twain, ‘Innocents Abroad,’ ch. xxiii.
- 1887 The reader need no longer wonder at the *backing and filling* of the *Iroquois* around the little *Sumter*—Semmos, ‘Service Afloat,’ p. 255 (Balt.).

**Backwoods.** The forest primeval.

- 1768 The chain of forts through the *back woods*.—*Boston Gazette*, Jan. 25.
- 1803 The philosophers said there was plenty of [mammoth] somewhere in the *backwoods*.—‘The Port Folio,’ iii. 97 (Phila.).
- 1807 The members from the *back woods* seem to be the deepest skilled and most active men in Congress.—*Repertory* (Boston), Dec. 15.
- 1834 Your Journal having even reached these *backwoods*.—*Chambers’s Journal*, iii. 40. (N.E.D.)

**Backwoodsman.** A dweller in the backwoods.

- 1803 Most of the “*Back-wood’s men*,” as they are called, are emigrants.—Thaddeus M. Harris, ‘Journal of a Tour,’ June 6 (Boston, 1805).
- 1817 The hardihood and capacity of suffering, necessary to the *backwoodsman*.—John Bradbury, ‘Travels,’ p. 10.
- 1817 In our late expeditions in the Illinois....we have led the lives of thorough *backwoodsmen*.—M. Birkbeck, ‘Notes on a Journey,’ p. 167 (Phila.).
- 1818 J. K. Paulding’s poem, ‘The Backwoodsman,’ in six cantos, was published by M. Thomas of Philadelphia.

**Backwoodsman**—*contd.*

- 1826 The people in the Atlantic states have not yet recovered from the horror inspired by the term "*backwoodsman*," . . . . The *backwoodsman* of the west, as I have seen him, is generally an amiable and virtuous man.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 176.
- 1840 Mr. C. expresses his surprise that the *backwoodsmen* of America should profess to be the literal descendants of Aaron. Who said they were?—Elder J. Taylor, *Millennial Star*, p. 200 (Dec.).
- 1848 The *backwoodsman* [must have] his "chicken-fixins" and "shanty-cake."—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xxxi. 223 (March).

**Bad egg.** A rascal; a worthless fellow. The *κάκου κόρακος* *κακὸν ὄρν* of the Greeks.

- 1853 In the language of his class, the Perfect Bird generally turns out to be "a *bad egg*."—'Captain Priest,' p. 319. [See BIRD.]
- 1863 Nigger Bill is evidently a "*bad egg*." Fined three dollars and costs.—*Rocky Mtn. News*, Jan. 22 (Denver).
- 1864 "A *bad egg*,"—a fellow who had not proved to be as good as his promise.—*The Athenæum*, p. 559/1. (N.E.D.)

**Badger.** A resident of Wisconsin.

- 1833 A keen-eyed, leather-belted "*badger*" from the mines of Ouisconsin.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 207 (Lond., 1835).
- 1856 Our "Hoosiers," "Suckers," and "*Badgers*," of the American woods.—Emerson, 'English Traits,' iv. 54. (N.E.D.)
- a.1881 It is popularly supposed that the term "*badger*" was applied to our people because of the abundance of these animals within our borders, but such is not the fact. Previous to 1835 there were, except at the military forts and missionary and trading stations, and in the lead mines of the South-west, very few white people located within the territory. The characteristic term of "*badger*" arose in the lead region. The miners were of two grades—those who stayed all the year round at the "diggings," and those who came up from Illinois only to operate during the summer season. The permanent residents, having but little time or material to construct regular huts, were accustomed to burrow into the hill-sides semi-subterranean cells, large enough for bunking and cooking purposes. This peculiar mode of life, being similar to that of the badger—an animal then plentiful in the lead regions—suggested the term of "*badger-holes*," as applied both to the cave-like homes and the sunken shafts of the resident miner, while the latter themselves were termed "*badgers*." On the other hand the Illinois itinerants would come up in the spring and return in the fall, in the same manner as the "*sucker*" fishes; being in the diggings but a short season, they did not sink regular shafts and burrow under the earth



**Badger**—*contd.*

along the mineral veins like "badger" miners, but opened large quarry pits, seeking for float-lead and that ore which could be easily obtained near the surface. The itinerants were called "suckers," because of the similarity of their migratory habits to those of the *catostomus*, as to distinguish them from the resident "badgers"; while the open pits scooped out by the former were designated "sucker-holes." The lead-mine region in South-western Wisconsin is still plentifully besprinkled with these "sucker-holes," exhausted and abandoned by the early visitors from over the Illinois border. The distinguishing appellations, "badger" and "sucker," became, as an obvious sequence, characteristic terms, applied to the entire people of the States of Wisconsin and Illinois respectively, and to the States themselves. It was, therefore, because of this time-honoured and accepted designation of Wisconsin and its inhabitants that the badger was chosen as our armorial crest, and we became officially, as well as popularly, "the Badger State."—*Madison (Wis.) Journal*.

**Bagasse.** See quotations.

- 1835 The *bagasse* or cane-trash (called in the W. Indies *migasse*) is received into carts to be burnt.—Ingraham, 'The South-West,' i. 239.
- 1854 Ure, 'Dict. of Arts.' (N.E.D.)
- 1875 When they have finished grinding the cane, they form the refuse of the stalks (which they call *bagasse*) into great piles, and set fire to them, though in other sugar countries the *bagasse* is used for fuel in the furnaces of the sugar mills.—Mark Twain, 'Old Times,' *Atlantic Monthly*, p. 450 (April).

**Baggage.** This word, in the U.S., has slowly superseded *luggage*. The 1852 quotation is truer now than it was when written.

- 1812 I shall set off as soon as I can obtain my *baggage*.—Jonathan Russell to James Monroe: *Boston-Gazette*, Nov. 23.
- 1832 The concourse of hackney coaches, each pouring forth its quota of *luggage* and passengers.—E. C. Wines, 'Two Years and a Half in the Navy,' p. 1 (Phila.).
- 1837 [The passengers] were all fished out, together with their *baggage*.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Sept. 1, p. 2/3.
- 1852 An American never uses the conversational term *luggage*, but always speaks of his impediments as *baggage*.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 81 (N.Y.).
- 1860 To unhitch and pack the *luggage* on the backs of our mules.—Jas. C. Adams, 'Adventures,' p. 234 (S. F.)

**Baggage-check.** A check or ticket given in exchange for baggage. See CHECK.



**Baggage-smasher.** A railway or hotel porter.

1869 [The Boston hackman of the best school] is a wholly different man from the *baggage-smasher* of Babel, or from the cabman of London.—Edward E. Hale, 'Ingham Papers,' p. 59.

1883 'The Saratoga trunks are hurled recklessly by the "*baggage-smashers*" on to the deck.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, June 14. (N.E.D.)

**Bagonet or Bayonet plant.** A species of *Yucca*.

1823 Hedges of *bagonet plants* and myrtles.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 82 (Lond.).

1865 Parkinson, *Spanish bagonet*. (N.E.D.)

**Baire.** See quotation.

1775 *Baires* are a kind of tent made of a light coarse cloth, like canvas gauze, called by the French *villemontiers*.—Bernard Romans, 'Florida,' p. 228 n.

**Bake-oven.** An oven for baking.

1812 [He] threw it in the *bake-oven*, which had just before been heated to bake bread.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 2.

1827 A "New *Bake-House*" in Worcester, Mass., is advertised in the same newspaper, Sept. 19.

1883 *Harper's Magazine*. (N.E.D.)

**Baker.** A tin baking-oven.

1841 A peep into the *baker* told that the potatoes were cooked.—'Lowell Offering,' i. 227.

1854 I....kicked off the hot cover of a *baker* with my naked foot, and [snatched] the half-baked bread.—*Putnam's Mag.*, iii. 30 (Jan.).

1857 A shed-shaped tent will catch and reflect the heat like a *Yankee-baker*, and you may be drying while you are sleeping....On a deserted log [we found] a loaf of bread baked in a *Yankee-baker*.—H. D. Thoreau, 'The Maine Woods,' pp. 246, 249 (1864).

**Balance.** The remainder of anything.

1819 *Balance* is another word which is twisted from its proper meaning. This is made to imply the remainder. "*The balance* will be sold at auction."—David Thomas, 'Travels,' p. 230 (Auburn, N.Y.).

1823 Lost (by lending) the Third vol. of *Peregrine Pickle*. The person [who] has said book is requested to return it, or call and get *the balance* of the work.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, June 24 (Franklin, Mo.).

1825 He returned *the "balance"* [of the tobacco] with a word or two of acknowledgment.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 81.

1833 *The balance* of the dogs buckled in, and off they went right up a hollow.—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' p. 82 (N.Y.).

1834 The way I'll lick you will be a caution to *the balance* of your family.—*Knick. Mag.*, iii. 35 (Jan.).

**Balance—contd.**

- 1835 I'd have made them all rich, and give away *the balance*.—*'Col. Crockett's Tour,'* p. 36 (Phila.).
- 1837 *The balance* of this country consists of pine barrens, intersected with ponds and sink holes.—John L. Williams, *'The Territory of Florida,'* p. 130 (N.Y.).
- 1838 [In the Kansas Territory] the word *balance* comes into almost every transaction: "Will you not have a dessert for the *balance* of your dinner?"—"To make out the *balance* of his night's rest, he slept until eight in the morning."—Samuel Parker, *'Tour,'* p. 33.
- 1842 The word *balance* is constantly used to signify the remainder of anything, as, "I shall spend the summer in the mountains, and the *balance* of the year on the sea-coast"; or, "I shall be at my office in the morning, and the *balance* of the day in the country"; "I have only read the first volume, but I shall finish the *balance* tomorrow"; and it is not uncommon to be asked, "What will you take for the *balance* of your dinner?"—Buckingham, *'Slave States,'* ii. 132.
- 1842 He always grows enough to bread his own people for a year at least, and sells *the balance*.—*Id.*, ii. 167.
- 1843 *The balance* of her time will be sold very low.—Advt., *Missouri Reporter*, Jan. 28 (St. Louis).
- 1843 Hoops and *the balance* thought there was a young earthquake, and some sprang for the windows, others for the doors,—*'Life of S. S. Prentiss,'* ii. 92 (1884).
- 1843 [He] spent the remainder of the night, up to three o'clock, in piloting the young lady homeward, and *the balance*, till dawn, in discovering his way back again.—Cornelius Mathews, *'Writings,'* p. 198.
- 1843 Set me down for *the balance* of the fust edition; it'll be a fust-rate paper.—*Id.*, p. 221.
- 1845 *The balance* of the *dramatis personæ* were enjoying the farce they enacted.—*'Chronicles of Pineville,'* p. 151.
- 1846 Nives is scase, so give what thar is to the galls, an' let *the balance* use thar paws.—*'Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.,'* p. 87.
- 1847 Half of Oregon is gone to Great Britain, and the slave-power claims the *balance*.—Mr. Wentworth of Ill., House of Repr., Feb. 6: *Congressional Globe*, p. 342.
- 1847 Four of the children they were obliged to carry on their backs; the *balance* walked.—E. Bryant, *'What I saw in California,'* p. 133.
- 1848 I slep' with one eye open *the balance* of the night.—Major Jones's *'Sketches of Travel,'* p. 161.
- 1850 A political party in Wisconsin was known as "*Barstow and the balance*."—Thwaites, *'Story of Wisconsin,'* p. 238 (1899).

**Balance**—*contd.*

- 1853 A few hands in delicate silk and kid gloves rose gracefully up. *The balance*, and much the greater number, were permitted to retain their position.—*Daily Morning Herald*, March 22 (St. Louis).
- 1854 Six bits in money, and *the balance* in experience.—J. G. Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 95.
- 1855 [I left the State] with *the balance* of the Latter-day Saints, as they had previously killed many.—Brigham Young, Feb. 18: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 182.
- 1855 *The balance* of the day passed off pleasantly.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, July 7.
- 1857 Mark works hard for four or five months, and lays around loose *the balance* of the year.—S. H. Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 196.
- 1865 We came up with *the balance* of the army at Spring Hill.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' vi. 212 (Richmond, Va.).
- 1869 *The balance* of the population are asleep.—Mark Twain, 'New Pilgrim's Progress,' ch. xiv.
- 1872 I was left at Fort Bridger, with one man. *The balance* went on.... We hid *the balance* of their arms, and stood guard over them.—'Life of Bill Hickman,' pp. 84, 86.
- 1882 I do not understand the *balance* of your remark.—Mr. Totten to Mr. Merrick, Star-Route trial: *The Critic* (Washington), May 16.

**Bald Eagle.** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.

- 1705 The *Bald-Eagle* no sooner perceives a Hawk that has taken his Prey, but he immediately pursues.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' ii. 35.
- 1775 The *Bald-eagle*, which is generally upon the watch, instantly pursues.—Andrew Burnaby, 'Travels in N. America,' p. 28 n.
- 1815 The wolf, the bear, and the *bald eagle*, were the most frequent emblems on the tavern signs [among the Allegheny mountains].—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 6 (1826).

**Bald-face.** See quotations.

- 1840 He called lustily for a horn of *bald face* and molasses.—*Daily Pennant*, April 28 (St. Louis).
- 1848 What is classically denominated "*bald-face*," or old brown whiskey.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xxxii. 402 (Nov.).
- 1851 If you've got any more of that *baldface*, pour it out.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding, &c.,' p. 60
- 1854 Each one had a glass of whiskey and water, or, as Turtle called it, "a little diluted *bald-face*."—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 145.

**Baltimore-bird.** The Oriole. 1730, N.E.D.

- 1775 The *Baltimore-bird*, summer-duck, &c.—Andrew Burnaby, 'Travels in N. America,' p. 10.

**Banger.** A bludgeon. (A college word.)

1849 In this year "The Yale *Banger*" appeared.

1856 B. H. Hall, 'College Words, &c.'

1853 He is prone to sport a huge stick, suggestively called a "*Yale Banger*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xix. 2.

1854 The Freshman reluctantly turned the key,  
Expecting the Sophomore gang to see,  
Who, with faces masked and *bangers* stout,  
Had come resolved to smoke him out,  
And give him a puff he could do without.

*Id.*, xx. 75.

1856 Brandishing a *banger* above my head, I came on to the stage with a yell.—*Id.*, xxi. 282.

**Bang-up.** An overcoat. In Charles Lever's 'Jack Hinton' (1843) one of the characters has on "a green coat cut round in jockey fashion," and over it "a white *bang-up*" (p. 146). This word has escaped the notice of the N.E.D.

1830 "*Bang-up cords*" were advertised by Forbes and Freeman of Boston: *Mass. Spy*, June 9.

1842 A gentleman dressed in a dark colored fashionable *bang-up*, with tight-bodied coat, neck-cloth, breast-pin, hair and whiskers to match.—*Spirit of the Times* (Phila.), Jan. 13.

1842 "That gentlemanly looking man in the snuff-colored *bang-up*, that's Mayor Scott; he's the very man." "How so?" cried a tall strapping fellow in a white *bang-up*.—*Id.*, Jan. 28.

1853 He was attired in an old *bang-up*, black vest, grey pants, and straw hat.—*Public Ledger* (Phila.), June 11 (De Vere).

**Banjo.** This word appears as BANSRAW, 1764; BANJER, *a.* 1790; BANJOE, 1801. (N.E.D.)

1764 To the wild *banshaw's* melancholy sound.—Grainger, 'The Sugar Cane.'

1787 [The Virginia negro keeps] time and cadence, most exactly, with the music of the *banjor* (a large hollow instrument with three strings, and a quaqu, somewhat resembling a drum).—*American Museum*, i. 247 (March).

1801 The sound of Banneker's *banjo* [he is previously called "the sooty astronomer"] would be as tunable as Gallatin's broken French.—*The Port Folio*, i. 270 (Phila.).

1813 They would have heard a Jew's harp or a *banjoo*.—Mr. Quincy's speech, *Mass. Spy*, Jan. 27.

1817 I have seen [the negroes] reclining in their boats on the canal at Richmond, playing on the *banjo*, and singing.—Jas. K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' i. 118 (N.Y.).

1829 Our attention was drawn to another quarter by the notes of a *banjoe*.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Swallow Barn,' p. 101 (N.Y., 1851).

1836 The *banjo*, their national instrument, is known but in name, and in a few of the tunes which have survived.—Jas. K. Paulding, 'Slavery in the U.S.,' p. 194 (N. Y.).

**Bank-monger.** A word of Jefferson's coinage.

1814 I was derided as a maniac by the tribe of *bank-mongers*, who were seeking to filch from the public their swindling and barren gains.—Tho. Jefferson to John Adams, Jan. 24, from Monticello.

**Bank-robber.**

1799 Groups of pickpockets, *bank-robbers*, and hen-pecked dotards.—*The Aurora*, March 15 (Phila.).

**Banner State.** The one which rolls up the greatest vote in an election, or which in any way surpasses the others.

1840 Which is the *Banner State*?—The Whigs at an early stage of the electioneering for the next president, proposed to designate whichever state should give the Harrison ticket the largest majority, as the *banner state*. There has been considerable rivalry for the honor.—*Niles's Register*, Dec. 5, p. 210/1.

1840 *The banner county*.—Designation is claimed by Worcester, Massachusetts, which gave Harrison the largest aggregate majority, viz: 4,773.—*Id.*, Dec. 5.

1841 An attempt to prove that Vermont, and not Kentucky, was entitled to the honor of "the *Banner State*."—Henry Clay in the U.S. Senate, March 1: *Cong. Globe*, p. 332, App.

1850 Mr. M. is a native of New Jersey, the good old "*banner State*" of the Revolution.—Theodore T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Region,' p. 154 (N.Y.).

1862 Illinois is still the *banner State*.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, lx. 371 (Oct.).

1909 It is clear that the Good Shepherd is the *banner parish* in its offering on Easter Day. — *St. Stephen's Leaflet*, Portland, Oregon (May).

**Banter, v.** To challenge; n., a challenge.

1793 The husband, after a few minutes *bantering*, accepted in exchange for his wife an old horse, with nine dollars in cash to boot.—*Mass. Spy*, April 4: from the *Catskill Packet*.

1800 [In English sense.] He and I were *bantering* each other about the probable result of the election.... Converting a *bantering* conversation into a serious charge.—*The Aurora* (Phila.), April 10.

1836 A FAIR BANTER. A certain quizzical fellow issues the following challenge [in the *Baltimore Transcript*]. He says he can stand longer at the corners of the busy streets,—spend more time in ogling the ladies,—squirt more tobacco juice,—assume more attitudes,—make more witty observations,—roar out the loudest,—and give himself more airs than any six gentlemen in the city of monuments.—*Public Ledger* (Phila.), May 24.

1836 A rough-hewn fellow was *bantering* to run his mare against any horse that had ploughed as much that season.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky' (p. 14, ed. 1846).

**Banter**—*contd.*

- 1836 The blackleg set to work with his thimble again, and *bantered* me to bet.—‘Col. Crockett in Texas,’ p. 83.
- 1840 Well, said Blossom, make a pass at me. No, said Peter, you made the *banter*, now make your pass.—A. B. Longstreet, ‘Georgia Scenes,’ p. 28.
- 1840 [In English sense.] You’re the laughingstock of all the petticoats of our borough; Mrs. Y. and Mrs. S. and Mrs. D. makes you a continual *banter*.—John P. Kennedy, ‘Quodlibet,’ p. 162.
- 1842 SINGULAR BANTER. At a soiree recently given, some young ladies urged a dashing and spirited young fellow to join the Washingtonians.—*Spirit of the Times* (Phila.), July 15.
- 1845 Riding up to a farm-house, he began to *banter* the host to sell him an old straw hat.—P. P. Pratt, Account of his escape: *The Prophet* (N.Y.), Feb. 8.
- 1846 The third time he *bantered* me, I let him have it.—‘Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.,’ p. 50 (Phila.).
- 1851 Jim *bantered* the stranger purty quick for a swap.—‘Widow Rugby’s Husband,’ &c., p. 89 (Phila.).
- 1853 A young lady showed her deep concern by *bantering* the young gentleman, with whom she was conversing, to marry on the spot.—*The Columbian* (Olympia, W.T.), July 2.
- 1856 We’ll go and *banter* Ben to shoot at a target.—*S. F. Call*, Dec. 19.
- 1857 Brother Taylor *bantered* the U.S. for a trade, and promised them that if they would send all to Utah that wanted to come, he would send all to the States that wanted to go.—Brigham Young, Sept. 13, ‘Journal of Discourses,’ v. 230.
- 1860 The farmer again *bantered* him to buy his berries.—*Knicker. Mag.*, lvi. 221 (Aug.).

**Banyan.** See quotations.

- 1725 I have lost nothing but a *banyan* shirt, &c.—‘Harl. Misc.,’ viii. 297. (N.E.D.)
- 1774 Had on, when he went off, a Callico *Banyan*.—*Boston Gazette*, Sept. 5 (Burlesque advertisement).
- 1774 Carried away with him a Callico *Banyan*, &c.—*Id.*, Oct. 3. (Runaway advertisement.)
- 1833 In the summer, men very often wore calico morning gowns at all times of the day. A damask *banyan* was much the same thing by another name.—Watson, ‘Hist. Tales of Philadelphia,’ p. 117.
- 1867 His coat was brownish, black perhaps of yore;  
In summer-time a *banyan* loose he wore.  
J. R. Lowell, ‘Fitz-Adam’s Story.’

**Bar for Bear.** This is the most conspicuous instance of a Southern mode of pronunciation which has turned *affair* into *affarr*, *declare* into *declar*, *hair* into *har*, *stairs* into *stars*, &c.

- 1825 Will you never break yourself of these abominable Virginia habits? Will you never be done with *I reckon*? Must you continue, all your life long, to say *har* for *hair*; *stars* for *stairs*; *far* for *fair*; *thar* for *there*?—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 88.
- 1834 I would teach the Southrons, some of them, that stairs were not *stars*, and clear weather not *clar* weather.—*Knick. Mag.*, iii. 445.
- 1837 *Cl'ar* for *clear*, *y'ar* for *year*, *h'ar* and *hy'ar* for *here*, *whar* for *where*, *fa'r* for *fair*, *war* for *were*, *affa'r* for *affair*, &c.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 42-45, 63, and *passim*.
- 1853 *Car* for *care*, *clar* for *clear*, *far* for *fair*, &c.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' pp. 138-9, and *passim*.
- 1833 It would be ridic'lous if it should be a *bar* [said the Kentuckian], them critters sometimes come in here, and I have nothing but my knife.—*Knick. Mag.*, i. 90.
- 1843 "They say you've no *barr* nor turkey out thare in Filledelfy?" "No, no bears on four legs; but we've a smart sprinkle of dandy out our way."—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 154.
- 1847 All the marks [the critter] left behind showed me that he was the *bar*.—T. B. Thorpe, 'The Big Bear of Arkansas,' p. 25 (Phila.).
- 1847 I dove down where I could see the *bar* in the water.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 29.
- 1847 You can have *bar*-ham and *bar*-sausages, and a mattrass of *bar*-skins to sleep on.—*Id.*, p. 21.
- 1847 A list of varmints that would make a caravan, beginning with the *bar*, and ending off with the cat.—*Id.*, p. 16.
- 1850 The *bar* and painter got so sassy that they'd see which could talk impudentest.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 170 (Phila.).
- 1851 I've heard of some monsus explites kicked up by the brown *bars*.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 49.
- 1851 I kalkilated them curs o' hisn wasn't worth shucks in a *bar* fight.—*Id.*, p. 51.
- 1851 Supposin' you was after a bee-gum, and one of these big black *bar* was after you, and a smart chance of redskins were after the *bar*.—*Id.*, p. 103.
- 1851 The *bar* in our neck o' woods has a little human in um.—*Id.*, p. 53.
- a.1853 The modern and most fashionable pronunciation of this animal's name is *bar*. . . . *Bars* are divided into two classes; the white *bar* and the black *bar*; and these are subdivided into the brown *bar* of the Alps and the grisly *bar* of the Rocky Mountains. —Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' &c., iv. 280.
- 1854 The Royal Tiger was present thar,  
And the Monkey and the Polar *Bar*.  
*Oregon Weekly Times*, Sept. 23.
- 1865 I ain't no giant-killer. I ain't no Norwegian *bar*.—Bill Arp's 'Letter to Artemus Ward,' Sept. 1.



**Bar.** The liquor-counter in a "saloon."

1829 [It was] in a sort of shed, in what is denominated a *bar*, *anglicè*, a tap, or grog-shop. These odious places stared us in the face everywhere.—Basil Hall, 'Travels in N. America,' i. 125.

**Barbecue, v.** To broil over live coals; n., a feast on what is barbecued. There is a river in N. Carolina of this name, and near it a (Presbyterian) "Barbacue Church" was built, about 1765: W. H. Foote, 'Sketches of N. Carolina,' p. 133 (N.Y., 1846).

1690 Let's *barbicu* this fat rogue.—Mrs. Behn. (N.E.D.)

1705 Broyling....at some distance above the live Coals [the Indians], and we from them, call *Barbacueing*.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' iii. 12.

1732 Oldfield, with more than Harpy throat endued,  
Cries, "Send me, Gods! a whole hog *barbecued*!"  
Pope, 'Imitations of Horace,' Satire II. 25-26.

1775 The cassine is used as a drink. They *barbacue* or toast the leaves, and make a strong decoction of them.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 93.

1796 [The Virginians] are extremely fond of an entertainment which they call a *barbacue*. It consists in a large party meeting together either under some trees or in a house, to partake of a sturgeon or pig roasted in the open air, on a sort of hurdle, over a slow fire.—Isaac Weld, 'Travels through N. America,' p. 107 (Lond., 1799).

1799 An elephant of four years old, *barbecued* at a fire of sanders and aloes wood.—*The Aurora*, March 11 (Phila.).

1812 Instances of ferocious valour, which will give them popularity, and save the expense of *Barbecues* and Whiskey.—*Boston Gazette*, Dec. 7.

1817 The farmers occasionally give what they call a "*barbique*" in the woods....The hog is killed, dressed, and roasted after the Indian method.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 290 n.

1823 A *barbecued* hog in the woods, and plenty of whiskey, will secure elections, even in America.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' pp. 91-92 (Lond.).

1824 A more genteel festival is the *barbecue*, expensive and elegant; where a numerous party of ladies and gentlemen assemble by invitation, or ticket, to feast and dance in beautiful decorum under an artificial arbour.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 66 (Boston).

1824 She had *barbacued* a pair of fine fat quails for her husband's supper.—*Mass. Spy*, April 21, from the *Trenton Emporium*.

1825 [They believed the evacuation of New York to be] a genuine Yankee trick, which was to end "right away" in their being roasted alive, or *barbecued*.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' iii. 137.



**Barbecue**—*contd.*

- 1826 A free *Barbecue* and Dance will be given at Frankfort, Ky.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 4.
- 1829 The bodies [of rats in the West Indies] are neatly dressed and *barbecued*, and carried to the market-place, where they sell readily at the rate of two or three for a bit, or twelve and a half cents of our money.—*Mass. Spy*, April 15, from the *Macon (Ga.) Telegraph*.
- 1833 You surprise me, Mr. F. ; no taste for a *barbecue* ! Well, that shews you were not raised in Virginia. Time you should see a little of the world, sir ; there's nothing in life equal to a *barbecue*, properly managed,—a good old Virginia *barbecue*.—James Hall, 'The Harpe's Head,' p. 22 (Phila.).
- 1843 A *barbecue* is well described in Carlton's 'New Purchase,' chap. lxiii.
- 1852 On one hand you see rising the smokes of a *barbacue* ; a steer is about to be roasted entire above a huge pit, over which, by means of a stake, he hangs suspended.—'As Good as a Comedy,' p. 47 (Phila.).

**Barber shop.** [Similarly Butcher knife, butcher shop, doctor bill, &c.] See **SHOP**.

- 1857 You may see the *barber shops* crowded with our poor mechanics.—Brigham Young, April 6 : 'Journal of Discourses,' iv. 319.
- 1910 Two of the convicts were at work in the *carpenter shop* and the others were in the *tailor shop*. A Union Pacific *switch engine* had backed into the prison yard. At the sound of the whistle the men dashed into the yard and made toward the engine. Levelling dummy guns at the engineer, the men climbed into the cab and compelled him to reverse his engine. The engine with the convicts aboard rushed through the west gate into the open country and soon was speeding toward the woods.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 21.

**Barefooted.** See quotation, 1847.

- 1847 Well, stranger, where was you raised ? I thought even a Yankee knew that "stone fence *barefooted*" is the polite English for whisky uncontaminated,—pure, sir !—Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 194 (Phila.).
- 1866 "I take my tea *barfoot*," said a backwoodsman when asked if he would have cream and sugar.—Lowell, Introduction to 'The Biglow Papers.'

**Bark off.** To kill a squirrel by concussion only, firing at the adjacent bark.

- 1845 [Daniel Boone] could "*bark off*" squirrels with a rifle ball at any given distance.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xi. 88.
- 1865 G. A. Sala, "to *bark* a squirrel." (N.E.D.)

**Bark up the wrong tree.** To follow a false scent; to pursue a road that leads nowhere.

- 1833 It doesn't take a Philadelphia lawyer to tell that the man who serves the master one day, and the enemy six, has just six chances out of the seven to go to the devil. You are *barking up the wrong tree*, Johnson.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 46.
- 1833 I told him that he reminded me of the meanest thing on God's earth, an old coon dog *barking up the wrong tree*.—'Sketches of David Crockett,' p. 58 (N.Y.).
- 1834 [The Indians] to use a western phrase, *barked up the wrong tree*, when they got hold of Tom Smith.—Albert Pike, 'Sketches,' &c., p. 34 (Boston).
- 1836 You 've been *barking up the wrong tree*, cried the Ohioan.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, vii. 15 (Jan.).
- 1836 Job, little dreaming that he was *barking up the wrong tree*, shoved along another bottle.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 20 (Phila.).
- 1838 Instead of having treed their game, gentlemen will find themselves still "*barking up the wrong tree*."—Mr. Duncan of Ohio in the House of Representatives, July 7: *Cong. Globe*, p. 474, Appendix.
- 1839 The same reckless indifference which causes a puppy to *bark up the wrong tree*. — *Chemung* (N.Y.) *Democrat*, September 18.
- 1840 We would whisper in our friend's ear, that he has *barked up the wrong tree*.—John P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 148.
- 1841 The stockjobbers were *barking up the wrong tree* when they wrote these letters.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Representatives, Jan. 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 153, Appendix.
- 1841 He is *barking up the wrong tree* this time.—*Knick. Mag.*, xvii. 27 (Jan.).
- 1850 On finding that he had been *barking up the wrong tree*, he told them that he had gold in his pocket.—*Frontier Guardian* (Iowa), Dec. 11, edited by Orson Hyde.
- 1855 Such a scout's no better than a mangy dog that *barks up the wrong tree*.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' p. 447 (N.Y.).
- 1859 Isn't it barely possible that you may have been *barking up the wrong tree*?—*Knick. Mag.*, liv. 442 (Oct.).
- 1866 If my coon dog does sometimes *bark up the wrong tree*, he don't mean any harm by it.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 73.

**Barkeeper.** The man who keeps the bar in a "saloon."

- 1712 I am *barkeeper* of a coffee-house. — Steele, *Spectator*, No. 534. (N.E.D.)
- 1803 The *bar-keeper* brought me a note very carefully sealed.—John Davis, 'Travels in the U.S.A.,' p. 330.
- 1834 No, said the *barkeeper* (so are these functionaries called). — 'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 59 (N.Y.).

**Barker.** See quotation. 1611, Cotgrave, N.E.D.

1851 The "*barkers*" are at once at work with their axes, hewing the bark [from the log].—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 94 (N.Y.).

**Barking-iron.** A pistol.

1825 [He] seeing the *barking iron* shrunk back.—Jas. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 56 (Lond.).

1847 Put up your *barking iron*, and no more noise.—Le Fanu, 'T. O'Brien,' p. 63 (N.E.D.)

[Scott, in 1815, has *barker* for pistol: N.E.D.]

**Bark-mill.** A mill for grinding bark.

1829 [He goes at his task] with the reluctance of an old horse in a *bark-mill*.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Swallow Barn,' p. 181 (N.Y., 1851).

1846 [The alligator's mouth] gives the same hope of getting out of it, sound in body and mind, if once in, as does the hopper of a *bark-mill*.—T. B. Thorpe, 'Mysteries of the Backwoods,' p. 139.

1861 He must recede as submissively as a blind horse in a *bark-mill*.—Speech of Mr. Clemens of Virginia in the House of Representatives: O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' i. 270.

1885 Most tanners grind it in a *bark-mill*.—*Harper's Weekly*, Jan. 27. (N.E.D.)

**Barlow knife.** A knife probably so named after its English maker.

1779 "*Barlow penknives*" were advertised for sale in the *New Jersey Gazette* of Oct. 13. See *N. J. Archives*, 2nd S., iii. 676.

1819 A *barlow knife*, bloody, and another knife, rusty, lay along side of him.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 29.

**Barnburners.** See quotation from Bartlett. See also HUNKERS.

1845 The Whig party were no church-burners nor "*barn-burners*"—a name which a certain portion of the Democratic party had delighted in [assuming].—Mr. Dixon of Connecticut, in the House of Representatives, Dec. 30: *Congressional Globe*, p. 117.

a.1848 This school of Democrats was termed *Barn-burners*, in allusion to the story of an old Dutchman, who relieved himself of rats by burning down his barns, which they infested.—*N. Y. Tribune*, no date. (Bartlett.)

a.1848 Those friends of mine, the *Barnburners*, are wide awake; my inveterate enemies, the Hunkers, are getting excited.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 130.

a.1848 The old Hunkers and the *Barnburners* could do nothing but disagree.—*Id.*, i. 153.

**Barnburners**—*contd.*

- 1848 The Baltimore Convention would be a heterogeneous assemblage. It would consist of Wilmot-proviso men and anti-Wilmot-proviso men, of Old Hunkers and *Barnburners*, of fifty-four forty men and those who only went to forty-nine, of tariffmen and anti-tariffmen, internal-improvement men and anti-internal improvement men, spoilers and anti-spoilers, warriors and anti-warriors, indemnifiers and no-indemnifiers, and a variety of other hues and colors too tedious to mention.—Mr. Cocke of Tennessee, House of Repr., May 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 781.
- 1848 These Locofocos of the North have yielded everything, until now the *Barnburning* portion are in open revolt.—Mr. Holmes of N.Y., the same, Aug. 7: *id.*, p. 111, App. (See the whole speech.)
- 1850 Nor shall the *Barnburners*, wirepullers, &c., be passed by.—D. G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' i. 9 (1852).
- 1909 In 1847 Tammany, weakened by the factional fight between Hunkers and *Barnburners*, was defeated by the Whig candidate.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Nov. 1.

**Barrel.** A stock of money for use in a political campaign. Cf. SACK.

- 1884 We are accustomed to "barrel" campaigns here.—*Boston Journal*, Nov. 1. (N.E.D.)

**Barrens.** See quot. 1838. Also PINE BARRENS.

- 1784 A mountainous *barren*, which can never be inhabited.—Tho. Jefferson. (N.E.D.)
- 1784 This land lies open to the *barrens*, where there are many hundred acres without timber, and thick set with blue grass.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Aug. 17.
- 1799 Cotton lands in N. Carolina, advertised as "well wooded throughout; free from scrubby *barrens*."—*The Aurora* (Phila.), Nov. 12.
- 1805 The animals called skunks are extremely plenty and tame in the *barrens* of Kentucky.—Matthew Lyon to William Duane, *Mass. Spy*, June 26.
- 1816 Nothing grows upon the *barrens* but bushes and scrub-oaks.—Letter from Ohio, *Mass. Spy*, Jan. 10.
- 1823 They prefer the woodland to the *barrens*, the latter being thinly timbered with dwarfish trees and shrubs.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' pp. 207-8 (Lond.).
- 1823 I would not give one of my quarter sections for all the neighbourhood of the *barrens*.—*Id.*, p. 320.
- 1838 Wolves, coons, and other wild "varments," which once roamed the "cane-brakes" and "*barrens*" of this neutral land.—B. Drake, 'Tales,' p. 75 (Cincinnati).
- 1838 The region was that styled "*Barrens*," by no means implying unproductiveness of soil, but a species of surface of heterogeneous character, uniting prairie with timber or forest, and usually a description of land as fertile, healthy, and well-watered as may be found.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 191 (N.Y.).

**Bar-room.** A tap-room.

- 1809 The *bar-room* of a public-house is what in England is called a tap-room.—Kendall, 'Trav.,' iii. 231. (N.E.D.)
- 1810 When I returned into the *bar room*, . . . I found a traveller in it.—F. Cuming, 'Sketches of a Tour,' p. 40 (Pittsburgh).
- 1828 He made a sort of speech in Welles's *bar-room*.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Aug. 19, p. 2/4.
- 1845 You have [abused] me on so many occasions, in public *bar-rooms*, in the streets, &c.—Letter of Commodore E. W. Moore to Gen. Sam Houston: *Cong. Globe*, 1854, p. 1086, App.
- 1847 He was compelled to traffic with the lowest class of *bar-room* vagabonds.—Letter from W. G. Hale, Austin, Texas: *id.*, 2nd Session of 35th Congress, p. 775.
- 1855 This House is not the place for the investigation of idle rumors of the *bar-room*.—Mr. Colfax of Indiana, House of Repr., Dec. 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 92.

**Base-burner.** A stove fed automatically from a hopper, as the lower stratum is consumed.

**Basket of chips, a.** A metaphor for a pleasant appearance: perhaps because a supply of chips gives promise of a good fire. (Quot. 1827 is exceptional.)

- 1806 She smiled like *a basket of chips*,  
As tall as a hay-pole her size,  
As sweet as molasses her lips,  
As bright as a button her eyes.  
'Spirit of the Public Journals,' p. 115 (Baltimore).
- 1827 The Yankee will say of a young lady, "She is a real pretty girl, but she is as homely as *a basket of chips*."—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 28: from the *Berkshire American*.
- 1853 I let him in, as smiling as *a basket of chips*.—F. W. Thomas, 'Sketches,' p. 287 (Phila.).
- 1855 Mr. Slidell is lying back in his chair, smiling like *a basket of chips*.—*Olympia* (W. T.) *Pioneer*, March 17.
- 1878 They 'll make up to-night, and she 'll be as pleasant as *a basket of chips*.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' chap. xxvi.
- 1908 There he was, as smilin' as *a basket o' chips*, if he did have to walk with a cane.—Eliza C. Hall, 'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 45.

**Basswood.** The *Tilia Americana*.

- 1805 [The birds were] hovering round the top of an old *basswood* [sic] tree.—*Mass. Spy*, July 17.
- 1808 Advertisement of land with *basswood*, &c., on the Kennebeck River.—*The Repertory*, June 28 (Boston).
- 1824 A man is never a man till he can . . . sleep under a tree and live on *basswood* leaves.—W. Irving, 'Bracebridge Hall,' ii. 271. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 I want to see how many wooden nutmegs, horn flints, and *basswood* hams have been made and sent to the South since the last census.—Mr. Howe of Pa., House of Repr., April 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 861.

**Bat, Batter.** A "spree."

1848 Zenas had been on "a bat" during the night previous.—Durivage and Burnham, 'Stray Subjects,' p. 102.

1856 Ellis had just returned from a prolonged *batter* in Paris.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 502 (Nov.).

1869 I went to a "bat" in S.'s room, and we smoked and drank till three.—W. T. Washburne, 'Fair Harvard,' p. 69 (N.Y.).

**Bat one's eyes.** To wink. A phrase common to the dialects of Derbyshire and Shropshire. It would be rash to try to connect this with the Italian. The coincidence is curious:—  
Che par ch' *occhio non batta*, e che non spiri.

'Gerusalemme Liberata,' xix. 68.

1851 I jist *batted my eyes* at old Chamblin, an' he laffed.—'Simon Suggs,' p. 143.

1867 He shakes his head, and *bats his eyes*, and blunders back.—F. B. Carpenter, 'Six Months at the White House,' p. 271.

**Batteau.** A boat of light draught. See quot. 1803.

1759 Open *batteaux*.—'Ann. Register,' p. 44. (N.E.D.)

1769 Three men were loading a *battoe* at the [Hartford] ferry.—*Mass. Gazette*, July 17.

1775 It was determined that col. Allen should command the *batteaus*, a name generally affixed to boats of a particular construction, calculated for navigating the lakes and rivers, and drawing but little water, though heavily laden.—William Gordon, 'History of the American Revolution,' ii. 15 (Lond., 1788).

1776 (June 10) Burgoyne carried the frames of two vessels for the lakes, and ironwork &c. for *batteaux*.—Tho. Hutchinson's 'Diary,' ii. 65 (1886).

1777 They are preparing timber for building 1500 *batteaus* for the spring.—*Maryland Journal*, March 18.

1777 Five *batteaus* arrived with stores for the garrison.... The troops, which were to guard the *batteaus*, marched up. The captain of the *batteaus*, and a few of his men, were fired upon by a party of Indians.—*Id.*, Sept. 2.

1778 I had intelligence that one column were retiring in 220 *batteaux*, covered by five armed gallies.—*Id.*, Jan. 6.

1787 A *batteau* was carried on a cart in the evening, thro' the back streets [of Philadelphia].—*Id.*, Dec. 25.

1790 A large Wood Flat, with red Bends and a black bottom.... and a small *Batteau*, with a brimstone bottom.—*Id.*, Feb. 26.

1791 The *bateaux men* commonly hug the north shore.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 6.

1796 Found, a *Batteau*, about four or five weeks ago.—Advt., *The Aurora* (Phil.), March 17.

1796 A small *batteau*, which is a light boat, with a flat bottom, was dispatched to our relief.—Isaac Weld, 'Travels through N. America,' p. 58 (Lond., 1799).

**Bateau**—*contd.*

- 1803 A *batteau* is a flat-bottomed boat, widest in the middle, and tapering to a point at each end, of about 1500 weight burden ; and is managed by two men with paddles and setting-poles.—Thaddeus M. Harris, 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 38 (Boston, 1805).
- 1810 [The man] leaped into a *batteau*, and pushed off a few yards to a shallop.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 21.
- 1812 Many of the *batteaux* which have passed this town (Troy, N.Y.) manned with soldiers only, were in a very leaky condition.—*Boston-Gazette*, Sep. 14.
- 1812 During last week, nearly a hundred English *batteauxs* [*sic*] laden with military stores and troops, passed [Ogdensburg] on their way to the lake.—*Id.*, Sept. 17.

**Battle of the Kegs.** (Jan., 1778.)

- 1778 The firing at certain odd-looking kegs in the Delaware River is described, *Maryland Journal*, Feb. 3.
- 1787 See also the *American Museum*, i. 55–56 ; and verses on the incident, 69–71.
- 1833 See also Watson's 'Hist. Tales of Philadelphia,' pp. 297–9.

**Bay.** See quotations.

- 1856 He wandered along the edges of a dense *bay* or swamp-bottom....He proceeded to traverse the margin of the *bay*, until he came to its junction with, and termination at, the high road.—W. G. Simms, 'The Wigwam and the Cabin,' p. 18.
- 1884 Swamps and " *bay* " (the word applied in Florida to slough and water-grass meadows).—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 601. (N.E.D.)

**Bayberry.** See quot. 1792.

- 1769 " *Bayberry-wax candles* " advertised.—*Mass. Gazette*, Dec. 21.
- 1773 " Mould, Dip, and *Bayberry Candles* " advertised.—*Boston Gazette*, July 19.
- 1792 The *bay berry* (*myrica cerifera*) the leaves of which yield an agreeable perfume, and the fruit a delicate green wax, which is made into candles.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 123.

**Bay-craft, Bay-vessel.** Craft built to navigate a bay.

- 1789 [The other side of the land lies] within a Quarter of a Mile of Bear-Creek, which is navigable for *Bay-craft* to its head, where there is a Ship-Yard.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Jan. 2.
- 1789 I will exchange a small *Bay Vessel* for a large one, and give the difference.—*Id.*, Feb. 24.
- 1835 Many a settler loads his small *bay-craft* with planks and shingles in the spring of the year.—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' ii. 102 (Lond.).



**Bay-Men, Bay-State.** The "Old Bay State" is Massachusetts.

- 1773 [These publications] suited the too levelling disposition of the *Bay-men*.—Wm. Gordon, 'Hist. Am. Revol.,' i. 272 (Lond., 1788).
- 1775 There is too great a nationality among the *Bay-men*; such a one might be unduly prejudiced in favor of his own Colony.—*Id.*, ii. 38.
- 1801 Down here in the *Bay State* and all about the country.—'Spirit of the Farmer's Museum,' p. 198.
- 1837 He was from the Down-East country, a representative of the *Bay State*.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 194.
- 1837 [He] had given over all thought of returning to the *Bay-State*.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' iii. 260.
- 1843 He had been bred among the woodlands of the *Bay State*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, viii. 329.
- 1846 Mr. Jones of Georgia was sorry to hear any American—any citizen of the "*Old Bay State*"—say that he would not say that he would go with his country, right or wrong.—House of Representatives, May 14: *Congressional Globe*, p. 825.
- 1846                   Let our dear old *Bay State* proudly  
                          Put the trumpet to her mouth.  
  'Biglow Papers,' 1st Series, No. 1.
- 1848 But my good mother *Baystate* needs no praise of mine.—Lowell, 'A Fable for Critics.'
- 1850 I see that in the good old *Bay State* there is even now a struggle going on to keep the negro children out of the common schools.—Mr. McWillie of Mississippi, House of Repr., March 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 447.
- 1850 Our captain was a regular down-easter from the "*Bay State*."—James L. Tyson, 'Diary in Cal.,' p. 11 (N.Y.).
- 1857 When I fling a *Bay-State* shawl over my shoulders.—'Autocrat of the Breakfast Table,' ch. i.
- 1861 The "*Old Bay State*" sent forth her clarion notes.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' i. 161.
- 1863 The readiness of the "*Old Bay State*" to meet the crisis.—*Id.*, ii. 93.

**Bayou.** See quot. 1826. Mr. W. S. Wyman published a paper on the word in *The Nation*, lix. 361.

- 1812 Several *bayous* are mentioned in H. M. Brackenridge's 'Views of Louisiana,' pp. 162-8 (1814).
- 1817 Among the *bayoux* that take water [from the river above New Orleans] are *bayou Chiffalic*, *bayou Tunica*, *bayou Manchac*, *La Fourche*, and *Placqmines*.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 238.
- 1819 [The pirates] have established themselves on a piece of land between two small *bayous* that empty into lake Barataria.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 15.





**Beat, to see or hear the.** Anything that beats the thing spoken of.

- 1847 You don't tell me so ! Did I ever *hear the beat* o' that !—  
'The Great Kalamazoo Hunt,' p. 100 (Phila.).
- 1878 That Bill is saassy enough to physic a hornbug. I never  
*see the beat* of him.—H. B. Stowe, 'Poganuc People,'  
chap. x.
- 1908 Abram he jest laughed, and says, "Well, Jane, I never  
*saw your beat*."—Eliza C. Hall, 'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,'  
p. 27.

**Beat the Dutch, the devil, &c.** To surpass everything.

- 1775 Our cargoes of meat, drink, and cloaths *beat the Dutch*.—  
'Revolutionary Song' (Bartlett).
- 1826 The first remark in the pamphlet was, "*It beats the devil*."  
—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 46.
- 1837 "*That beats the Dutch*," saith the proverb ; meaning that,  
as the Dutch beat Old Nick, it is something of an exploit  
to beat them.—*Public Ledger* (Phila.), Feb. 6.
- 1840 Of all the goings on that I ever *did* hear of, this *beats the*  
*Dutch*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xv. 127 (Feb.).
- 1840 Well, if that don't *beat all my wife's relations* !—*Id.*, xv.,  
378 (May).
- 1842 *That beats the Dutch*.—*Spirit of the Times*, Phila., April 15.
- 1842 That Beats the Bugs.—Heading, *id.*, April 19.
- 1843 [On seeing Niagara,] she exclaimed, "I declare, it *beats*  
*the bugs* !"—I fainted.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, x. 47.
- 1851 Well, if these times don't *beat hoe'n'* [hoeing] '*taters*, then  
I'm a sinner.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 108.
- 1853 "Heavenly marcies !" sez she, "if that don't *beat crea-*  
*tion* !"—*Knick Mag.*, xlii. 122 (Sept.).
- 1854 Well, it does *beat the Dutch*, and the Dutch, you know,  
beat the d—l.—*Id.*, xliii. 524 (May).
- 1858 His first words were, "*It beats the devil*." "What beats  
the devil ?" said I.—*Id.*, li. 26 (Jan.).
- 1862       Guess she must a-had Secesh beaux,  
          And gone to Jayhawker parties from her youth up.  
          This *bangs the Dutch* of St. Louis,  
          And they kin swear some.       *Id.*, lix. 392 (April).

**Beatingest, Beatemest, Beatenest.** That which beats all com-  
petitors.

- 1833 Old rugged an' tough, they used to call his dad ; famous  
wrestler he was too, warped with hoop-poles and filled in  
with oven-wood : *beatemest* fellow ever you see for some  
things.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' p. 62 .
- 1838 Your the *beatomest* shakes I ever seed.—B. Drake, 'Tales,'  
p. 30 (Cincinnati).
- 1874 I reckon I am the *beatin'est* man to ax questions in this  
neck of timber.—E. Eggleston, 'The Circuit Rider,' p. 119  
(Lond., 1895).
- 1908 Of all the preachers that ever I heard, he certainly is the  
*beatenest*.—Eliza Hall, 'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 33.

**Beateree.** Same as the last.

1878 Mis' Potter sent that, and it's the *beateree* for bread, but 'tain't rye.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' chap. x.

**Beaver.** See WORK LIKE A BEAVER.

**Bechtler money.** See quotation.

1842 The miners carried much of their gold to a Mr. Bechtler, within four miles of the village in which I reside ; he is a very good assayer, and a very honest man. He converted a large portion of it into what we call, in the gold region, the *Bechtler coin*, or the miner's currency ; that is, pieces of gold, resembling but not imitating coin, with the proper value and the assayer's name marked thereon. Before the establishment of the branch mint at Charlotte, those *Bechtler pieces* constituted a portion of the currency in the gold region.—Mr. Graham of N. Carolina in the House of Representatives, April 4 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 316, Appendix.

**Bedding.** See quotation.

1792 [To prevent accident in felling a mast tree,] the workmen have a contrivance which they call "*bedding the tree*," by cutting down smaller trees for it to fall upon.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 103.

**Bed-quilting.** A quilting-bee.

1819 They were to assist at a *bed-quilting* he intended to have at his raising.—"An Englishman" in the *Western Star* : *Mass. Spy*, May 12.

**Bee.** A social gathering for work and play. See HUSKING-BEE, LYNCHING-BEE, QUILTING-BEE.

1769 Last Thursday about twenty young Ladies met at the House of Mr. L., on purpose for a Spinning Match ; (or what is called in the Country a *Bee*.) They met at six o'clock in the Morning, and continued diligently at Work till six at Night.—Letter from Taunton, Mass., Sept. 23 : *Boston-Gazette*, Oct. 16.

1829 This collection of neighbours is called a *Bee*, and is the common custom to assist each other in any great piece of labour, such as building a house, logging, &c. The person who "*calls the bee*" is expected to feed them well, and to return their work day for day. [The instance is Canadian.]—Basil Hall, 'Travels in N. America,' i. 311-12.

1853 [They] began to think that a "*Bee*" should be given for the benefit of the young clergyman.—F. W. Shelton, 'The Rector of St. Bardolph's,' p. 18 (N.Y.).

1853 Those annual assemblages called "*bees*" and "spinning visits," which are common in country parishes, and serve to eke out deficient salaries.—*Id.*, p. 237.

**Beech seal.** See quotation.

1856 [The Vermonters] caught one of the officers and tied him to a tree, and laid upon him what they called a "*beech seal*," which grows in the woods in the shape of what boys call switches.—Mr. Meacham of Vt., House of Repr., April 30 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 552, App.

**Beef.** An ox. Used by Stubbes (1583), Holland (1602), &c. N.E.1). The plural, *beeves*, occurs in the A.V.

1821 Few places can boast of larger crops [than Deerfield], and none of finer, fatter *beeves*.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' ii. 65.

1823 He took me to see his fall stock, consisting of....about twenty noble *beeves*, &c.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 3.

1828 So little was the faith of those who knew him, he could not be trusted for a *beef*.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Aug. 29, p. 4/2.

1835 Some one advertises that a first-rate *beef* will be shot for. [The whole transaction described.]—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 175 (Phila.).

1838 They had come together for the purpose of "shooting a *beeve*," as the marksmen have it.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 115 (N.Y.).

1842 The young man asked for the mark and brand of a *beef* which they had just killed.—Petition cited by Mr. Black of Georgia, in the House of Repr., May 24 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 419, App.

1857 "'pears to me," said Mice, "dat fool nigger is proud to be a leadin' of dat big *beef*."—D. H. Strother, 'Virginia Illustrated,' p. 133 (N.Y.).

1878 Behind these came a *beef*, driven by soldiers....The *beef* was immediately shot at and butchered.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' vi. 212 (Richmond, Va.).

1899 We watched them at a distance kill and divide the *beef*.—Mrs. Custer, 'Boots and Saddles,' p. 64 (N.Y.).

1904 Late in the afternoon, a *beef*, perhaps more than one, was driven up and shot on the outskirts of the camp.—Claiborne, 'Seventy-Five Years in Old Virginia,' p. 289.

**Beef, v.** To put on extra exertion. A college word.

1860 The first boat in is the winner of the race, so round they turn, and "*beef her*" for the home stretch.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxvi. 83.

**Beef-dodger.** A "dodger" made with minced beef.

1853 [They have] pinole, pemmican, and *beef-dodgers* for their principal support.—Speech of Mr. Benton, May 7. (Bartlett.)

**Bee-gum.** A hive.

- 1835 The folks [were] pouring out of the house like *bees* out of a *gum*.—‘Col. Crockett’s Tour,’ p. 91 (Phila.).
- 1848 Now and then a fisherman’s house standin on the water’s edge, lookin’ ’bout as big as a *beegum* agin the everlastin stone wall behind it.—‘Major Jones’s Sketches of Travel,’ p. 143 (Phila.).
- 1851 Supposin’ you was after a *bee-gum*, and one of these big black bar was after you, and a smart chance of redskins were after the bar. — ‘Polly Peasblossom’s Wedding,’ p. 103.

**Bee-line.** A direct line. See quot. 1848 (Drake).

- 1830 The squirrel took a *bee line*, and reached the ground six feet ahead.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 24.
- 1837 [They will be] engaged in investigating the nature of what is vulgarly called a “*bee line*,” drawn in the directions of their several domicils.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ii. 141.
- 1841 Guide, draw a *bee-line* for home, and see that you take us there by the shortest route. — *Savannah Georgian*, Jan. 25.
- 1842 The road will go, in a “*bee-line*” as we say, through the broadest marshes.—Mrs. Kirkland, ‘Forest Life,’ i. 160.
- 1848 Our victim struck a *bee-line* for the Providence Depot.—Durivage and Burnham, ‘Stray Subjects,’ p. 65.
- 1848 When the bee has sucked its fill, it rises, makes two or three circuits, and then moves off in a straight, “a *bee line*,” to the swarm of which it is a member.—Dr. Daniel Drake, ‘Life in Kentucky,’ p. 135 (Cincinnati, 1870).
- a.1849 A *bee line*, or in other words a straight line.—E. A. Poe, ‘The Gold Beetle.’ (N.E.D.)
- 1855 [He] coolly took a *bee-line* back to the road.—W. G. Simms, ‘The Forayers,’ p. 71 (N.Y.).
- 1856 He arose and took a *bee line* for the back door.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 157.
- 1862 —the *bee-line* track to heaven an’ fame,  
Ez all roads be by natur’, ef your soul  
Don’t sneak through shun-pikes so’s to save the toll.  
‘Biglow Papers,’ 2nd Series, No. 2.
- 1867 He made a *bee-line* last night in the storm  
To where he won’t need wood to keep him warm.  
J. R. Lowell, ‘Fitz-Adam’s Story.’

**Bee-moth.** *The Galleria mellonella.*

- 1829 Instinct teaches the *bee-moth* to secrete herself, during the day, in the corners of the hive.—*Mass. Spy*, May 27; from the *Western Carolinian*.

**Bee-tree.** A tree containing honey.

- 1817 The hunters had found a *bee-tree*, and were returning to the boat for a bucket, and a hatchet to cut it down.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 33.
- 1829 They marched off into the woods, to witness the cutting of a *bee-tree*, and to gather grapes and peccans.—Timothy Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 63.
- 1829 The *bee-tree*, in falling, had broken off at the point where the swarm had formed their hive.—*Id.*, p. 66.
- 1834 We encamped early, and cut a *bee-tree*, obtaining a good quantity of honey to eat with our bear meat.—Albert Pike, 'Sketches,' &c., p. 76 (Boston).
- 1835 Our practice was to find the *bee-trees*, at our leisure, during the summer, and mark them with a tomahawk.—James Hall, 'Tales of the Border,' p. 83 (Phila.).
- 1849 Washington Irving....(N.E.D.)

**Begin to.** Used with a negative to express the extreme of impossibility.

- 1842 Money is too scarce. Not one of the three theatres [announced as to be built in New York] will *begin to go up*.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, April 11.
- 1843 Certain gentlemen must be made to know that they do not *begin to be the party*, "by a long slipe."—*Missouri Reporter*, May 19.
- 1847 The trees and vines are sorter nit together like a sock, and you couldn't *begin to get through 'em*.—'A Swim for a Deer,' p. 124 (Phila.).
- 1852 Bust my buckskins if them 'ar kind of tactics would *begin to do* with the redskins.—James Weir, 'Simon Kenton,' p. 13 (Phila.).
- 1855 No "breathing-ships" e'er will *begin to supplant*  
The ships rushed along by omnipotent steam.  
*Boston Traveller*, May 23 (Bartlett).
- 1856 I am satisfied that \$8,000 will not *begin to put up* a stable suitable for the accommodation of from sixty to eighty horses.—Mr. Dick of Pa., House of Repr., April 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 798.

**Behaving party.** See quotation.

- 1829 They had been at what [in New Orleans] are very significantly termed "*behaving parties*." In these, the persons present are supposed to be on their good behaviour.—Timothy Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 148.

**Belike, v.** To love. (1557, 1567, N.E.D.)

- n.d. The gentleman is generally *beliked*.—*N. Y. Herald* (Bartlett).

**Belittle.** (A word coined by Jefferson.) To minify, to treat as of small importance, to depreciate.

1796 On this side the Atlantic there is a tendency in nature to *belittle* her productions.—Morse, 'Am. Geog.,' i. 230. (N.E.D.)

*bef.* 1812 [Them books, said a Vermonter] are too "*belittling*," as Mr. Jefferson says, for a man to read.—'Retrospections of America,' by John Bernard, p. 325 (Harpers, 1887).

1814 President Jefferson talks about *belittling* the productions of nature.—*Quarterly Rev.*, x. 528 (Bartlett).

1816 The Virginian phraseology sounds a little peculiar to a northern ear at times. There is the executive *belittle* for *demean*, which, however, being an expressive word, the ex-president hath rather *belarged* his fame by adding it to our vocabulary.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 81 (Boston, 1824).

1841 This course was magnifying ourselves, and *belittling* the mightiness of Mr. Fox.—Mr. Wise of Va., House of Repr., June 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 121.

1842 Ridiculed, *belittled*, and traduced as this measure has been before the people.—Mr. Steenrod of Virginia, the same, Aug. 9: *id.*, p. 27, App.

**Bench, Bench land.** Land rising by ascents which are interrupted by flats or "benches."

1846 The mountains rise in *benches* one above another, to an elevation of several thousand feet above the level of the valley.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I saw in California,' p. 133 (Lond., 1849).

1862 R. Mayne, 'British Columbia.' (N.E.D.)

1862 We can gather from this *bench land*—this gravelly soil,—thirty bushels of wheat to the acre.—Brigham Young, Jan. 26: 'Journal of Discourses,' ix. 169.

1878 A small spur puts out westwardly from the Wasatch, and breaks down in successive *benches* to the upper part of [Salt Lake] City.—J. H. Boadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 90.

**Bench-legged.** See quotation. *Southern.*

1902 A *bench-legged* fisto is a small dog of the bull-dog type, with square breast and fore legs wide apart.—'Dialect Notes,' ii. 234.

See also FICE, 1866.

**Bender.** A drinking frolic. Ramsay (1728) and Tannahill (1810) use the word as meaning a hard drinker. (N.E.D.)

1846 A diabolic curvature, or *bender*, as the initiated call it (a sin of commission).—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xi. 278.

1857 She had retained such refreshing simplicity as to associate the idea of some flexible substance with "*bender*," and to consider a work of art alone suggested by "*bust*."—T. B. Gunn, 'New York Boarding Houses,' p. 174.

1860 Senator Wigfall on a *bender*.—Headline, *Oregon Argus*, June 23.

1888 He was a character noted for going on frequent *benders*.—*Detroit Free Press*, Aug. 4 (Farmer).

**Bend-side.** The side toward which the bend or curve of a river looks.

- 1838 The deepest channel and most rapid current is said to exist in the bend [of the Mississippi]; and thus the stream generally infringes upon the *bend-side*, and throws up a sand-bar on the shore opposite.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 82 (N.Y.).

**Berm bank.** The side of a canal opposite to the towpath. "Birm" or "berm" is a word used in fortification. (N.E.D.)

- 1854 Mr. Duane of Philadelphia ("Uneda") made inquiry as to this word.—*Notes and Queries*, 1 S. ix. 12.
- 1883 The horse plunged over the *berm bank* into the bed of the canal.—*Williamsport* (Pa.) *Gazette*, March 30.

**Best bib and tucker.** Best clothes. 'Lanc. Glossary,' 1875 (N.E.D.). Apparently of American origin.

- 1822 It is not in the evenings only that they are to be encountered in "the *best bib and tucker*."—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 27: from the *National Gazette*.
- 1833 Both girls and boys had on their *best bib and tucker*.—'Sketches of David Crockett,' p. 37 (N.Y.).
- 1837 The fair Bruces were flaunting in their *best bibs and tuckers*.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 33 (Lond.).

**Bet your life.** An expression emphasizing the speaker's veracity.

- 1852 Our thanks are due to Col. S. P. Moses for a copy of the Holy Bible, Webster's Dictionary, and a map of the territory of Oregon. They will all be faithfully preserved, and frequently referred to—and "*bet your life*" on that.—*The Columbian* (Olympia, W.T.), Oct. 2.

**Better believe, you'd.** An expression somewhat like the last.

- 1856 By the powers of mud, old woman,  
If I catch your daughter from home,  
*You'd better believe*, I'll live in the clover,  
And enjoy it, I reckon, some.  
*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 171.
- 1857 We made up a roarin' great fire, of the biggest kind o' logs, and we laid out for comfort that night, *yeou'd better b'leve*.—*Putnam's Mag.*, ix. 45 (Jan.).
- 1857 I settled his hash, now *you'd better believe*, quick.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlix, 69 (Jan.).
- 1862 *You better believe* we've been in an awful excitement here.—'Major Jack Downing,' May 26.
- 1872 See GO OFF THE HANDLE.

**Bettering-house.** A reformatory.

- 1735 Whether there are no such things in Holland as *bettering-houses* for bringing young gentlemen to order?—Bp. Berkeley, 'Querist,' iii. 360 (1871). (N.E.D.)



**Bettering-house—contd.**

- 1795 The *Bettering House*, which is under the care of the overseers of the poor, stands in the same neighbourhood [in Philadelphia], somewhat removed from the houses of the City.—Isaac Weld, 'Travels through N. America,' p. 7 (Lond., 1799).
- 1796 Reflections on visiting the *Bettering-Houses* at Philadelphia.—*The Aurora* (Phila.), July 28.

**Betterment.** An improvement in real property ; also an improvement generally.

- 1809 These men demand [to be] paid for their *betterments*.—Kendall, 'Travels,' iii. 160. (N.E.D.)
- 1841 [Massachusetts passed] laws requiring the successful plaintiff in ejectment to pay the occupying claimant for what they termed his "*betterments*," answering to the *melioramenta* of the civil law.—Mr. White of Indiana, U.S. Senate, Jan. 19 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 75, App.
- 1904 The slight *betterment* thus secured [was] only temporary.—Grover Cleveland on the Bond Issues : 'Presidential Problems,' p. 134.
- 1910 A man prominently identified with the *betterment* of the city.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 27.

**B'hoy.** A town rowdy ; a gay fellow. See also G'HAL.

- 1846 A smile on his lips peculiar to one of the *bo-hoys*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxvii. 467 (May).
- 1847 [He] had lived too long in the "wire-grass" region to misunderstand the character of that peculiar class of *b'hoys* who dwell there.—*Id.*, xxix. 204 (March).
- 1848 You see, ses he, I'm one of the *b'hoys*,—a out and out Fell's Pinter [Baltimore].—'Major Jones, Sketches of Travel,' p. 78.
- 1848 Go it, all ye "g'hals," and all ye "*b'hoys*," as much as you can, while you are young.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 167.
- 1848 He might have told you of that same member of Congress writing to them, calling them the *b'hoys*, telling them how much he desired to be among them, . . . saying in the end, "go on, *b'hoys*, and don't be surprised if I join you before you reach the table lands of Mexico."—Mr. Tompkins of Mississippi, House of Representatives, March 14 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 492, Appendix.
- 1848 I've sunk a very pretty sum  
In rides and sweetmeats past,  
And haven't now the first red cent,—  
She drained me to the last.  
How green I was, in earnest grave  
I certainly must say ;  
I shall be cut by all the "*B'hoys*"  
For courting Alice Gray.  
Durivage and Burnham, 'Stray Subjects,' p. 60.

**B'hoy—contd.**

- 1848 The oldest and youngest,—Shem and Japhet,—were a couple of the “*b'hoys*,”—and Ham was a very well disposed young gentleman.—*Id.*, p. 94.
- 1850 The *b'hoy* was as crop-haired and large-fisted as ever, and appeared now, in the depth of winter, the same as in mid-summer, in his shirt sleeves.—Cornelius Mathews, ‘*Money-penny*,’ p. 128 (N.Y.).
- 1851 “Uncle Sam and his *B'hoys*.”—Article by J. K. Paulding, *U.S. and Democratic Review*, April.
- 1852 The story of one of the Gothamite “*B'hoys*,” who in reply to the inquiring remark of a gentleman, “I wish, Sir, to go to Brooklyn,” said, “Well, why the d—l don’t you go-o-o to Brooklyn?”—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxix. 95 (Jan.).
- 1852 [The occupants of the sleigh] are of not-to-be-mistaken Bowery cut—veritable “*b'hoys*.”—Charles A. Bristed, ‘*The Upper Ten Thousand*,’ p. 29 (N.Y.).
- 1852 Many of the New England *b'hoys* almost imagine themselves back in the land of pumpkin pies.—*The Oregonian*, Dec. 25.
- 1853 My off-handed manner just suited the *b'hoy*, on whom any superfluous politeness would have been thrown away.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 60 (July).
- 1854 They were as gallus a set of “*b'hoys*” as ever run “wid der mersheen at the great fire.”—Dow, Jr., ‘*Patent Sermons*,’ iv. 127.
- 1855 Now, Sam, if you have no religion of your own, as you spell your name *B'-h-o-y*, where is prescription to stop?—*Oregon Weekly Times*, June.
- 1855 Trot along, *b'hoys*, keep up with the show, and you will get a good look at the elephant by and bye.—*Weekly Oregonian*, July 7.
- 1857 These lines were probably written by one of the *B'hoys* to his inamorata :—
- And when the reverend sire shall say,  
 “My son, take thou this daughter,”  
 I’ll answer him, in joyous tone,  
 “I shan’t do nothin’ shorter.”  
 “Will you, my son, support and nourish  
 This flower I give to thee?”  
 I’ll give my yellow kids a flourish,  
 And answer, “Yes, Sir-ee.”
- Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 95 (Jan.).
- 1857 They can twist off the corner of a sacred subject with as great a degree of nonchalance as any of the “*b'hoys*.”—*S. F. Call*, Feb. 6.
- 1857 So he quit skinning calves, and took to skinning the “*b'hoys*.”—*Id.*, March 26.

**B'hoy**—*contd.*

1858 Dramshops, where the *b'hoys* met every Saturday evening, to shoot for whiskey and get drunk.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, June 19.

1866 I want, said the stranger, to see a *b'hoy*,—a real *b'hoy*. "There's one," replied his companion, pointing to a strapping fellow in a red shirt and crush hat, waiting for a job at the corner.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 727 (Dec.).

**Bible-backed.** Round-shouldered or hump-backed.

1857 We might, in consequence [of lack of funds], become somewhat round-shouldered and "*bible-backed*."—*Olympia* (W.T.) *Pioneer and Democrat*, Dec. 11.

The word *Bible-back*, describing a round-shouldered person, is found in Rockland Co. (N.Y.) and in Bergen Co. (N.J.).—See 'Dialect Notes,' ii. 349.

1873 In the Tichborne trial, the following evidence was given, Aug. 29 :—

Was he a big lad ?—Yes.

What kind of shoulders ?—Rather high.

Anything else ?—He was humpy or *bible-backed*.

*Notes and Queries*, 4 S. xii. 227.

**Biddy.** A hen.

1844 See CAUTION.

1874 [The English hens] had a contented cluck, as if they never got nervous, like Yankee *biddies*.—Louisa M. Alcott, 'Little Wives,' chap. viii.

**Big Bugs.** People of consequence.

1831 'Tis our Democracy, good Gat,  
To keep the "*Big Bugs*" waxing fat.

*Northern Watchman* (Troy, N.Y.), April 5.

1832 There are....located in Cincinnati some Irish pedlars, who have....acquired wealth, and are now the "*biggest bugs*" in the place.—S. A. Ferrall, 'Ramble through the U.S.A.,' p. 178 (Lond.).

1835 I was rather fearful that you would not be able to do much with the *big bugs* there in the village.—D. P. Thompson, 'Adventures of Timothy Peacock,' p. 40 (Middlebury).

1836 Did he make these forgeries on his own hook, or at the instigation of the *big bug*? If the latter, which is most guilty ?—*Public Ledger* (Phila.), Aug. 24.

1837 The letter was addressed to a merchant,—one of the "*big bugs*," as they are called in the West.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, ix. 259 (March).

1839 You know we have some *big bugs* among us.—'History of V. A. Stewart,' p. 139 (N.Y.).

1839 [He] was a "*great bug*," that is, a great personage, rolling in wealth.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' i. 130 (Phila.).

1840 There are the Mandarins, our *big bugs*, and I could name them to you.—John P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 138.

**Big Bugs—contd.**

- 1842 **HARD TIMES.** The *big bugs* of Philadelphia find it necessary to send their gold and silver plate to the mint, to be coined.—*Spirit of the Times* (Phila.), July 16.
- 1843 We'll pick out the *big bugs*.—'Sam Slick in England,' chap. xxiv (Bartlett).
- 1843 I allow the stranger and his woman-body thinks themselves mighty *big bugs*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 65.
- 1847 Permit me to carry you off and introduce you to some of the *big bugs*.—Paulding, 'Am. Comedies,' p. 104 (Phila.).
- 1849 The most of the "plenty-penitentiaries," and "*big bugs*" generally, dwell on the top of a hill, about a mile from the centre of the city.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxiii. 545 (June).
- 1850 The fellow was a mixture of Spanish and negro, wore spectacles for dignity, and was deaf for convenience; all unmistakeable signs of a *big bug*.—Theodore T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Region,' p. 26 (N.Y.).
- 1853 Who is that walking there with the *big bugs* in front? he eagerly asked. Why, don't you know? That is the Governor.—*Daily Morning Herald*, May 10 (St. Louis).
- 1856 Hiram was beloved by many of the *big-bugs* at Washington.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 270 (March).
- 1856 She's one of the *big bugs* here—that is, she's got more money than a'most anybody else in town.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 25.
- 1857 His only companions were the sons of great men; *big bugs*, as proud as himself.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 484 (Nov.).
- 1861 Yas, yas, massa, I show you where all of de *big bugs* stop.—*Id.*, lviii. 314 (Oct.).

**Big Drink, The.** The Mississippi River.

- 1846 There never would have been any Atlantic Ocean if it hadn't been for the Mississippi, nor ever will be after we've turned the waters of that *big drink* in the Mammoth Cavern.—*Oregon Spectator*, May 2.

**Big head.** An inflated opinion of oneself. The 1805 quotation needs a comment.

- 1805 A Brown Steer, having "what they call the *Big Head*," advertised in the *Lancaster* (Pa.) *Intelligencer*, Dec. 3.
- 1853 Mayor How's ungallant attack upon the little boys of our city is a weak emanation of a "*big head*."—*Daily Morning Herald*, July 2 (St. Louis).
- 1853 Were I to use a Western term, I would say they were troubled with a *big head*.—Brigham Young, Dec. 5: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 338.
- 1855 They had got the *big head*, that is, their heads were larger than the substances would sustain.—H. C. Kimball at the Mormon Tabernacle, Feb. 25: *id.*, iii. 162.

**Big head**—*contd.*

- 1856 We will send men to the Missouri River in the speediest conveyances, so that they may not get the "*big head*" before they arrive. . . . They need to be careful, or they will have the "*big head*," and become as dead as old pumpkins.—Brigham Young, Nov. 2: *id.*, iv. 69.
- 1896 I'll tell you what's the matter with her. She's got the *big-head*.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 100.

**Big-horn.** A species of mountain sheep or goat.

- 1806 June 3. The men. . . . saw a number of deer, and of the ibex or *big-horn*.—Patrick Gass, 'Journal,' p. 222: Pittsburgh, 1807. [He was with the Lewis and Clarke expedition.]
- 1823 About all the woodless parts of the mountain, and particularly on the summit, numerous tracks were seen, resembling those of the common deer: but they most probably have been those of the *big-horn*.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Expedition,' ii. 31 (Phila.).
- 1849 The *bighorn* is so named from its horns; which are of a great size, and twisted like those of a ram.—W. Irving, 'Astoria,' p. 240. (N.E.D.)
- 1862 We saw a *bighorn* studying us from the crags, wishing no doubt that his monster horns were ears to comprehend our dialect.—Theodore Winthrop, 'John Brent,' p. 246 (N.Y., 1876).

**Big Muddy, The.** The Missouri River.

- 1863 We expect ere long to stand on the banks of the "*Big Muddy*," and meet the hominy-fed lasses of the Butternut State.—*Rocky Mountain News* (Denver), March 19.
- 1869 The waters of the "*Big Muddy*," as the Indians call the Missouri, are not of a kind calculated to leave a clean record.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 331 (Sept.).
- 1870 [The Missouri] has been called mighty. . . . yet the appellation of "*Big Muddy*," which is current here, is the one which more truthfully characterizes it.—Rae, 'Westward by Rail,' p. 67 (Lond.).

**Biggest toad in the puddle, The.** The most consequential person.**Bile for Boil.** Eng., but now dial.

- 1778 [He] has a scar on one of his cheeks, occasioned by a *bile* or something like it.—Runaway advt., *Maryland Journal*, Oct. 13.
- 1821 "A child was cured of ulcers and *biles*" by using Dr. Relfe's Botanical Drops.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, Aug. 8.
- 1828 I have got the ague, together with a gum-*bile*.—J. R. Lowell, 'Letters' (1894), i. 6. (N.E.D.)
- a.1848 Ancient Job was smitten with sore *biles*.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 161.

**Biled or Boiled Shirt.** A clean one.

1862 See Appendix XIV.

1869 In order to attend the Governor's reception, I borrowed a *boiled shirt*.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 412. (N.E.D.)

1888 Yer got to pit on yo' *biled shirt* in de mawnin' arly, on git radey fur chu'ch.—*Daily Inter-ocean*, Feb. 13 (Farmer).

1890 The frontiersmen....discussed the "*biled shirts*," and viewed the whole party with lofty scorn.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 172 (N.Y.).

**Billion.** A thousand million.

See Webster, 'Dict.,' s.v. 'Numeration.'

1840 We may begin with the hundred and twelve millions, and then proceed.....until we have bought and divided that *billion* of acres.—Mr. Benton in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 89, Appendix.

**Billstead.** Maple wood.

1832 The general furniture was made of "*billstead*," another name for maple. [This was about 1780.]—Watson, 'Hist.' *Tales of N.Y.*, p. 164.

**Bimbo.** See quotation.

1837 The *U.S. Gazette* asks what is *bimbo*? Not toddy, we hope. *The Boston Transcript* answers that it is much worse. *Bimbo* is a rascally compound of brandy and sugar, flavored with lemon peal (*sic*). An invention of the devil to make drunkards.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Sept. 5, p. 2/3.

1880 See N.E.D.

**Bime-by.** See BYME-BY.

**Bind on.** To adjoin.

1808 [New York] *binds on* Lake Erie to Niagara, on the whole extent of Lake Ontario, &c.....Vermont *binds on* lakes which communicate with Canada.—Mr. Key in Congress: *Mass. Spy*, May 11.

**Binnekill, Benderkill, &c.** A side-channel of a river. *Dutch*.

1901 Monograph by Professor Edward Fitch.—'Dialect Notes,' iii. 131-4.

**Bird.** A fast man, woman, or horse. The word is sometimes eulogistic, usually not so.

1842 Chippendale slept in the watch-house....Chippendale is certainly a *bird*.—Phila., *Spirit of the Times*, Feb. 12.

1852 The same reason kept Mr. S., and other "*birds*" of his set, out of the exclusive society.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 128 (N.Y.).

1852 Talking of fast men, that Williams is a *bird*.—*Knickerbocker*, xl. 320 (Oct.)

**Bird—contd.**

- 1853 The *Perfect Bird* has no wings, yet he is considered "fly" upon all sporting matters. The *Perfect Bird* carries a brick in his hat, and a stone in his boot. In the language of his class, the *Perfect Bird* generally turns out to be a bad egg.—'Capt. Priest,' p. 319.
- 1855 "Bishop Stevenson," of Pittsburgh, is "*a perfect bird*."—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 90 (July).
- 1856 —A sleigh, drawn by a "*perfect bird*" of a three-mile bay mare.—*Id.*, xlvii. 429 (April).
- 1856 "Written like *a bird*." Comment on a letter.—*Id.*, xlviii. 430 (Oct.).
- 1856 Isn't Mrs. Partington a "*perfect bird*" ?—*Id.*, 434.

**Bird-line view.** A bird's-eye view. Obs. and rare.

- 1803 The bright *bird-line view* of American glory being thus intercepted.—*Mass. Spy*, June 8.

**Bishop.** A lady's bustle. Obsolete.

- 1790 I know not how to describe the ideas that were excited in my mind by the sight of a *Bishop*. Agreeably to your directions I fixed it upon my hips: but my sister and two brothers ran out of the room to avoid me.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 16.
- 1791 Tax then freely our caps, bonnets, cushions, *bishops*, every piece of ornamental dress.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Jan. 26 (Phila.).
- 1807 Some years ago, I am informed that the ladies wore what they called *bishops*; but am not informed as to their real shape, size, and use; further than that they were intended to strike the beholder with an idea of magnitude and importance.—"Observator," in *The Balance*, Sept. 8 (p. 281).
- 1828 *Bishops* or pads, which are worth a voyage to the moon to behold in all their majestic rotundity.—Jas. K. Paulding, 'A New Mirror for Travellers,' p. 69 (1868).
- 1828 Young ladies should take special care of their *bishops*. The loss of a *bishop* is dangerous in other games besides chess.—*Id.*, p. 222.
- 1832 When the ladies first began to lay off their cumbrous hoops, they supplied their place with substitutes; first came "*bishops*," a thing padded with horse hair; then succeeded a smaller affair, under the name of *cue de Paris*, also padded with horse hair.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of New York,' p. 147.
- 1839 She it was who first appeared with the leg of mutton sleeves, with the boddice waist, and the *bishop*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xiii. 190 (March).
- 1842 Ladies' *bishops* are sometimes called stern realities.—Phila., *Spirit of the Times*, Sept. 15.

**Bishop—contd.**

- 1844 Why are the ladies in a fair way to become rulers in the churches ? Because all their movements are backed by the *bishops*.—*Id.*, Sept. 17.
- 1847 The biggest sort of *Bishups* is the go here.—'Billy Warwick's Wedding,' p. 105 (Phila.).
- 1848 The arm is stretched,—the word commands,—a mighty heave is given,  
And on a tree the bundle hangs in the free air of heaven !  
The huge tree groans, that bears the weight, and groaning seems to ring :  
Is this a woman's *bishop* ? Oh ! what a monstrous thing !  
*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiii. 236.
- Bit.** Usually one-eighth of a dollar. See a valuable note by Mr. John E. Norcross of Brooklyn on 'Dollars, Bits, Picayunes' : *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. viii. 63-64.
- 1683 Spanish *bitts* and Boston money.—'Col. Rec. Penna.,' i. 85. (N.E.D.)
- 1819 A *bit* is the Pennsylvania elevenpence, the New York shilling, and the New England ninepence.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 127 (Boston, 1824).
- 1840 Says Paddy, drinking off his cup,  
Your Custom here is hard to hit ;  
For when a fellow wants a sup  
You make him hand you out a *bit*.  
*Daily Pennant* (St. Louis), April 10.
- 1850 *Two bits* for a cup of coffee ; *two bits* for a piece of pie ; or, if hunger and economy were to be considered, two doughnuts for a quarter of a dollar. Hardly anybody said "two bits" or "a quarter" in those days. It was *dos reales ! cuatro reales ! un peso !*—Barry and Patten, 'Men and Memories of San Francisco,' p. 132.
- 1854 —The returned Californian's fortune of \$10,000 ;—*six bits* in money, and the balance in experience.—J. G. Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 95.
- 1854 —The will, that cuts off an expectant heir with a "*short bit*."—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 219.
- 1856 I declare, cousin Ellis, you haven't changed a bit. Changed a BIT ! Course I haven't, here in Philadelphia,—if I had, I should have got two fips for it.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlviii. 502 (Nov.).
- 1859 Let 'em fight it out, daddy. I'd give a *long bit* myself to see 'em pull hair.—Mrs. Duniway, 'Capt. Gray's Company,' p. 158 (Portland, Oregon).
- 1860 The price of liquor at Salem, till recently, was *two bits* a drink. Now it is a *bit*. Take off the license, and liquor could be as well afforded for a picayune, or at least three drinks for a quarter.—Letter to *Oregon Argus*, July 21.



**Bitter end, to the.** A phrase possibly of nautical origin. See N.E.D., with example, 1867.

1849 I am among those who voted for the gentleman from Indiana, even "*to the bitter end.*"—Mr. Stanton of Tennessee, House of Repr., Dec. 12: *Congressional Globe*, p. 23.

1850 The disunionist looks to a southern Confederacy; the *bitter-ender* to the triumph of his party, and the downfall of as honest, and patriotic, and honorable an Executive, as this country has known since the days of Washington.—Mr. Butler of Conn., the same, March 12: *id.*, p. 303, Appendix.

1850 Our defence is a just one, and will be maintained by us to the "*bitter end,*" speaking after the manner of the venerable editor of the *Union*.—Mr. Corwin of Ohio, the same, April 9: *id.*, p. 434, App.

**Black Betty.** A spirit-bottle. Obs. The N.E.D. has Betty, 1725.

1827 They become enamored of blue ruin itself. They hug the "*black Betty,*" that contains it, to their bosoms.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 31: from the *Berkshire American*. [The phrase *blue ruin* is used by Moore, 1819: N.E.D.]

**Black Dan.** A nickname of Daniel Webster.

1846 Mr. Webster has two characters which, Proteus-like, he can assume, as his interests or necessities demand,—the "God-like" and the "Hell-like,"—the "God-like Daniel" and "*Black Dan.*"—Mr. Yancey of Alabama in the House of Repr., April 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 653.

**Black eye.** A defeat; a discouragement

1795 Massachusetts beaten; and a *black eye* for Connecticut. —Story of a Vermont pumpkin, *Mass. Spy*, Feb. 18.

**Blackguarding, Blackguardism.** Vile language.

1799 They wish to hear reason instead of disgusting *blackguardism*.—Tho. Jefferson, 'Writings' (1859), iv. 281. (N.E.D.)

1805 [I am not] afraid to encounter your gigantic *blackguardism*. —Matthew Lyon, *Mass. Spy*, June 26.

1826 That rencontre of wit which is commonly called *blackguarding*.—Timothy Flint, 'Recoll.,' p. 31.

**Black jack.** The dwarf or scrub oak.

1792 The more broken and hilly country (I mean the worst land) produces *black-jack oak*, fir, &c.—G. Imlay, 'Topographical Description,' p. 216 (Lond.).

1816 Live-oak has very little [gallic acid] in proportion to the black-oak (*quercus tinctoria*) or the *black-jack* (*quercus nigra*).—*Analectic Mag.*, vii. 218 (Phila.).

1817 On the prairie, post oak (*Quercus obtusiloba*), *black jack* (*Quercus nigra*), &c.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 257.

1834 I never saw weeping pines and *black-Jacks* (scrub oaks) before I came into South Carolina.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 166 (N.Y.).

**Black jack**—*contd.*

- 1834 I would scold my overseer's son, who is but twelve years old, if he were to brag on a shot that would hardly knock a squirrel out of a *black jack*.—'Novellettes of a Traveller,' i. 180 (N.Y.).
- 1846 I noticed in one of the ravines the scrub oak, or what is commonly called *blackjack*.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I saw in California,' p. 132 (Lond., 1849).
- 1847 We meet the peccan and other trees, among them the *black-jack*.—'Life of Benj. Lundy,' p. 39 (Phila.).
- 1856 The gray beech, and the shrubby *black-jack* oak.—Olmsted, 'Slave States,' p. 383. (N.E.D.)
- 1862 If the rebel troops become guerillas, they will have to be hung. The *black-jacks* will be far more fatal to them than yellow jack was to our troops.—*N.Y. Observer*, June 5 (Bartlett).
- 1904 A thicket of dwarfed oaks, *blackjack* as it is called in that section, and which is impassable for cavalry.—Claiborne, 'Seventy-Five Years in Old Virginia,' p. 283.

**Black Money.** See RED MONEY.

**Black Republican.** The diametrical opposite of a Bourbon Democrat.

- 1856 They say they'll fight till the crack of doom before they'll allow the *Black Republicans* to get the upper hand.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 455 (1860).
- 1856 Now these gentlemen denounce us as "*Black Republicans*."—Mr. Simmons of N.Y., House of Repr., Jan. 3: *Cong. Globe*, p. 141.
- 1856 The honorable gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Jones), in a short letter to his constituents, used the term "*Black Republican*" twenty-two times: denouncing us for the election of Robert Morris a *Black Republican* (as he calls him) to the office of postmaster.—Mr. Purviance of Pa., the same, July 12: *id.*, p. 921, Appendix.
- 1858 It was reserved for the *Black Republican* party to announce a doctrine which directly strikes at the honor and independence of fifteen states of this Confederacy.—Mr. Wright of Tennessee, the same, March 20: *id.*, p. 1232.
- 1859 The election of a *Black Republican* President.... would be regarded as a declaration of war upon our rights.—Mr. Moore of Alabama, the same, Dec. 8: *id.*, p. 71.
- 1859 [The State Rights men] repudiate the doctrine—a favorite one with the *Black Republicans*—that slavery.... is the creature anywhere of local law.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Sept. 23, p. 1/7: from the *N.O. Daily Delta*.
- 1859 The *N.Y. Times*, formerly *Black Republican*, is now the New York city organ of Mr. Douglas.—*Id.*, Sept. 23, p. 4/6.
- 1860 The *Black Republican* Legislature at Albany has nearly completed its work of black iniquity.—Corr., *Richmond Enquirer*, April 20, p. 2/3.
- 1860 The *Black Republican* members of this Committee are representative men of the party and section.—Telegram from Mr. Toombs, Dec. 23.

**Black Republican**—*contd.*

- 1861 I undertake to say that no *Black Republican* Legislature will ever say it is their duty to render back fugitive slaves.—Mr. Toombs in the Senate, Jan. 7.
- 1861 [I am] utterly, unalterably opposed to any and all plans of reconstructing a Union with the *Black Republican* States of the North.—Speech of W. L. Yancey, Alabama Convention, Jan. 24.
- 1861 Partisans have united to fire the Southern mind against the hated *Black Republicans* of the North.—Sherman in the House of Representatives, Jan. 18.  
[For the last four quotations see O. J. Victor, 'History of the Southern Rebellion,' vol. i. pp. 118, 178, 205, 240.]
- 1861 We will preserve the soil of the State [of Virginia] from the polluting foot of the *Black Republican* invader.—*Richmond Enquirer*, March.
- 1861 The *Black Republicans* are a cowardly set, after all. They have not the courage of their own convictions.—*New Orleans Bee*, March 10.

**Black-snake.** A long and cruel whip.

- 1869 In the midst of it all, he would start up with a sudden yell of anguish, whirl his *black-snake*, and let fly at the mules: misery, passion, ferocity, depicted in every feature.—J. Ross Browne, 'Adventures in the Apache Country,' p. 40 (N.Y.).
- 1869 Pop cracked his *black-snake*, and we all rid in with flying colors.—*Id.*, p. 462.
- 1875 To keep from starving, he was obliged to take a *black snake*, and drive a team.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 560 (May).
- 1878 The fearful "*black-snake*" curled and popped over the animals' backs, sometimes gashing the skin.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 53.
- 1888 The Mexicans vied with one another as to who could snap the huge "*black-snake*" the loudest.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 356.

**Black-strap.** Any cheap spirituous drink. *Scotch.*

- 1821 What champagne is to homely *black strap*.—*Blackwood*, x. 105. (N.E.D.)
- 1828 This is the baby-drink, call'd *black-strap* and molasses, for the boys.—'The Yankee,' p. 227.
- 1830 The mate was compounding a large tin pot of hot "*black strap*," when a huge monster of an old [seal] bolted in among us.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 151.
- 1830 A somewhat "lengthy" application to the tin pot of hot *blackstrap*.—*Id.*, p. 156.
- 1836 This is a temperance town, or the proposed stake would probably have been flip or *blackstrap*.—*Boston Pearl*, Feb. 13.

**Black tariff.** A term applied to the tariff of 1842.

- 1846 Mr. Ingersoll of Pa., "How if there should be a *black tariff*?" Mr. Hunter of Va., "Let this state of things once come, and we shall hear no more about the '*black tariff*.'" —*Congressional Globe*, p. 92, Appendix (House of Representatives, Jan. 10).
- 1846 [Mr. Yancey] appeals to the democracy of the South, and tells them . . . that "the *black tariff*" will be sustained.—Mr. Baker of Illinois, House of Representatives, Jan. 29: *Congressional Globe*, p. 152, Appendix.
- 1846 I might compromise a little, rather than see the country consigned to the tender mercies of the *black tariff* of 1842.—Mr. Wick of Indiana, House of Representatives, July 1: *id.*, p. 1043, App.  
[This was a high tariff, odious to the Democrats, in which the duties averaged 33 per cent. It included the "similitude" section.]

**Blacky.** A negro. The usual word is **DARKEY**.

- 1815 Aye, even *Blackey* cries shame.—Moore, 'Epistle to Tom Crib.' (N.E.D.)
- 1824 The *blackee*, turning round suddenly, gave him a severe blow.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, March 8.
- 1834 A gang of dandy-looking *blackees*, each with an enormous cudgel.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter,' &c., ii. 302 (Lond., 1835).
- 1834 [He may] pick up some Southern heiress, with a thousand *blackies*.—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' ii. 174 (N.Y., 1837).
- 1838 A little regiment of *blackies* came marching towards me.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recoll. of a Southern Matron,' p. 107.
- 1839 He assured me that he (the *blacky*) would have me carried before a magistrate.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' i. 125 (Phila.).
- 1839 Some of the *blackies* whisked the young lady out of my hands.—*Id.*, i. 167.

**Blast, in full.** Energetically at work.

- 1850 [This] will be sufficient to keep all the elements of agitation *in full blast* at the North.—Mr. Bell of Tennessee, U.S. Senate, July 5: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1096, Appendix.
- 1858 The organ . . . was *in full blast* in the church.—Hawthorne, 'Fr. and It. Journals,' ii. 143. (N.E.D.)

**Blaze, n. and v.** See quot. 1833.

- 1737 We then found another *blaze*, and pursued it.—John Wesley. (N.E.D.)
- 1775 These same two men serve as chain-bearers, and two as *blazers*.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 195.
- 1799 Gashing, notching, and *blazing*, are fallacious, futile, hurtful.—*The Aurora*, (Phila.), May 22.

**Blaze**, n. and v.—*contd.*

- 1832 From Utica to Canandaigua [about 1785–1800] they travelled by *blazed* paths.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of New York,' p. 41.
- 1833 " *Blazed* " trees are marked with an axe or hatchet, to designate that a trail runs near them.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 181 n. (Lond., 1835).
- 1835 It whets your invention to strike a path, without a *blaize* or a tree to guide you.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 68 (Phila.).
- 1836 We had no other guide to the path than the *blazes* on the trees.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 120 (Phila.).
- 1841 I desire to new *blaze* the landmarks which do now, and ever have divided the Federal and the Democratic parties.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Representatives, Jan. 26 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 155, Appendix.

**Blaze.** A continual firing.

- 1777 [They] kept up such a *blaze* upon the enemy, that they were forced to retreat.—*Maryland Journal*, Sept. 2.

**Bleachers.** The uncovered benches on an athletic field ; because bleached by sun and rain.

- 1909 Since the old days, there have been sad faces on the *bleachers*.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, March 4 : from the *Boston Post*.
- 1909 [Some think] that, by going to work at eight, they may adjourn to the *bleachers* or the teeing-ground at half-past three.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, May 13.
- 1909 No true friend of athletics who has cheered madly from the "*bleachers*," or danced the serpent-dance of victory on the soggy field, will hesitate.—*Id.*, April 8.

**Blind Tiger.** See quotation.

- 1909 A "*blind tiger* " is a private residence, a shed, a tent, or an office room in a building, occupied temporarily, and stocked with beer and whiskey for sale to friends of the proprietor.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Jan. 28.

**Blinders.** Blinkers for horses.

- 1809 Shake off their manacles, their *blinders* cast.—J. Barlow, 'The Columbiad,' x. 414. (N.E.D.)
- 1812 [The cow], when she went away, had a board *blinder*.—Advt., *Boston-Gazette*, July 16.
- 1848 [Mr. Polk] was worked into the Presidency with Oregon and Texas on either side, as a horse is worked with *blinds*.—Mr. Thompson of Kentucky, House of Representatives, June 30 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 820, Appendix.

**Blister.**

- 1894 An oyster smaller than a quarter of a dollar. (New Jersey.) —'Dialect Notes,' i. 328.

**Blister.** An extortioner. Rare and perhaps obsolete.

1854 Here's Mrs. Grind now,—rooms to let,—good rooms, but the dowager's a *blister*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xx. 20

**Blizzard.** This word at first meant a smart blow: see quot. 1856; and was so used by Col. Crockett in 1834 (Bartlett). During the hard winter of 1880–1 it came into general use (though thus used previously to signify an intolerable snowstorm, with high wind.

1834 A gentleman at dinner asked me for a toast; and, supposing he meant to have some fun at my expense, I concluded to go ahead, and give him and his likes a *blizzard*.—Crockett's 'Tour down East,' p. 16.

1856 And then, behold, King Henry, very dead,  
Lies stiff and cold upon his gory bed,  
When some true archer, from the upper tier,  
Gave him a "*blizzard*" on the nearest ear.

*Sacramento City (Cal.) Item*, n.d.

1863 I'd gin him a *blizzard*, if I died for it the next minit.—J. B. Jones, 'Wild Western Scenes,' p. 76 (Richmond, Va.).

1899 A North Dakota *blizzard* is well described by Mrs. Custer in 'Boots and Saddles' (Harpers).

1902 Until one has encountered a western *blizzard*, the word has little meaning.—Bishop Whipple, 'Lights and Shadows,' p. 88.

[For quotations 1880–1883 see the N.E.D. The word is copiously discussed in *Notes and Queries*, Series 7 and 9. It seems to be Midland English, in the form of *blizzer*, *blizzomer*, *blizzom*, &c. A house in the Fulham Road, London, bore the name of *Blizzard House*, some forty years ago, having no doubt belonged to the family so named, as to which see *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. xii. 336.

**Block.** The aggregation of houses enclosed by four streets. Sometimes called a SQUARE.

1796 The whole *block* of buildings included between that slip, Front Street, and the Fly Market.—*The Aurora* (Phila.), Dec. 13.

1824 A fire broke out [in Columbia, S.C.] by which nearly a whole *block* was consumed.—*Carolina Gazette*, Jan. 17, p. 3/2.

1837 Paved thoroughfares, and manufacturing or commercial *blocks*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, ix. 72 (Jan.).

1843 "I was standing in my shop-door, if the court please, when about two *blocks* off I saw"—"Two *blocks*?" interrogated the district attorney. "Yes, sir, two *blocks*," retorted the crockery-dealer.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 276.

1846 Seventeen *blocks* (squares), containing houses of the largest and most costly construction, were consumed in one night [in the great fire of 1835].—John F. Watson, 'Annals of New York,' p. 379.

**Block—contd.**

- 1847 If he means to tell you there's a man across the street, 'tis ten to one he goes round the whole *block* to define his position.—Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 187 (Phila.).
- 1853 The traveller would probably be completely masticated [by the horses] about once in passing three *blocks*. Then he would be run over some three times in one *block*.—'Capt. Priest,' p. 237.
- 1860 In length [the Great Eastern] reaches three city "*blocks*" or squares, taking in the river terminus of Hammond, Troy, and Bethune streets.—Corr., *Richmond Enquirer*, July 6, p. 4/2.
- 1869 The dogs sleep in the streets all over [Constantinople]. From one end of the street to the other, I suppose they will average about eight or ten to a *block*. Sometimes there are fifteen or twenty to a *block*.—Mark Twain, 'New Pilgrims' Progress,' chap. iii.
- 1909 [They] took the negro from his cell and hanged him from an electric light pole *half a block* from the jail.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, April 5.

**Block out.** To design in the rough. Whether this phrase originated in England or in America is doubtful.

- 1829 There are portions [of the Message] which bear the marks of having been "*blocked out*" by General Jackson.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 16.
- 1837 The latter cantos were merely *blocked out*.—Lockhart, 'Life of Scott,' iii. 15. (N.E.D.)

**Blockade.** A term sometimes applied to whiskey during the Civil War.

- 1867 The guard got drunk on "*blockade*" . . . . One fellow, seeing the excellent "*blockade*" poured into the streets, thought it a wanton destruction.—J. M. Crawford, 'Mosby and his Men,' pp. 217, 220 (N.Y.).

**Block-house.** A house of hewn logs ; a fort. The N.E.D. gives examples, 1512–1878.

- 1791 January 2. The Indians surprised the *block-house*, and broke up the settlement on the Big Bottom.—Thaddeus M. Harris, 'State of Ohio,' p. 203 (1805).
- 1821 A *block-house* differs from a log one in this particular ; in the former the logs are hewn square, so that they are smooth within and without, and the latter are hewn, only within, having the bark on the outside.—Zerah Hawley, 'Tour' (Ohio), p. 52 (New Haven, 1822).
- 1835 A fort constructed in this way is described by W. G. Simms, 'The Yemassee,' i. 42–44 (N.Y.).
- 1840 Fort George consists of three small *block-houses*, one of which is occupied by Mr. Birney and family, and the others for purposes of trading.—Gustavus Hines, 'Oregon,' p. 89 (1851).



**Block-house—contd.**

- 1840 A *blockhouse* is nothing but a green log house, of two stories: the second story projecting a couple of feet over the first, and resting on a floor of split logs; the loopholes for firing being in the upper story, both in the sides, and in the floor, and in the projections. A dozen men will put up such a house in a day, and cover it in the next day.—Mr. Benton in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 99 (Appendix).

**Blooded.** A blooded quadruped is one with a pedigree; one bred of a particularly good stock.

- 1778 Several *blooded* mares and fillies will also be sold.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Jan. 20.
- 1778 “Three *half-blooded* bull-calves” advertised for sale.—*Id.*, Aug. 11.
- 1782 Stolen, the following Creatures, viz. one a bay Horse, the other a *half-blooded* black Mare.—*Id.*, July 30.
- 1783 A young bay Mare, *part blooded*.—*Id.*, Feb. 4.
- 1783 A likely dark bay mare, about *three-quarters blooded*.—*Id.*, July 15.
- 1784 A natural trotter, but not free-spirited, though *part blooded*.—*Id.*, Nov. 2.
- 1786 A number of *full-blooded* Colts and Fillies, got by Bajazet, together with a considerable number of *half* and *three-quarter blooded* Colts and Fillies, by the same Sire.—*Id.*, March 31.
- 1804 When one of our *blooded* young fellows separates from the crowd, he only, &c.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 11.
- 1810 Forty-five *full-blooded* Merino sheep.—*Id.*, April 25.
- 1829 [He] presented Col. Gardner Chandler with a fine *blooded* colt.—*Id.*, June 10.
- 1829 He is somewhat distinguished as a breeder of *blooded* horses.—J. P. Kennedy, ‘Swallow Barn,’ p. 36 (N.Y., 1851).
- 1833 The grooms were feeding and rubbing down a number of beautiful *blooded* animals.—James Hall, ‘Harpe’s Head,’ p. 22 (Phila.).
- 1888 A Blue-grass farm, with *blooded* horses, &c., was my husband’s ideal home.—Mrs. Custer, ‘Tenting on the Plains,’ p. 340.

**Bloodee.** A kind of stick or cane, once sported by certain collegians. Compare such formations as *coatee*, *frockes*, *stickee*, &c., much used a century ago.

- 1797 Seniors about to take degrees  
Not by their wits, but by *bloodees*.  
Hall’s ‘College Words.’



**Bloomer, Bloomerism.** Mrs. Bloomer, who lived to the end of the year 1894, was the supposed originator of a semi-masculine dress for women, which was worn by Dr. Mary Walker on the streets of Washington at least as late as 1880. She did not invent it, was not the first to wear it, and protested against its being called by her name. See D. C. Bloomer's 'Life and Writings of Amelia Bloomer,' 1895. For some years she edited and published, at Seneca Falls, N.Y., a magazine called *The Lily*, in which (Feb., 1851) the new costume appears to have been first mentioned in print. It was adopted by a few women in London in that year (see *Notes and Queries*, 8 S. viii. 6), and afforded much scope for ridicule in *Punch* (see vol. xx. 220; xxi. 3, 68, 141, 150, 158, 160, 168, 175, 184, 186, 189, 191-2, 196, 200, 202, 204, 208-10, 217-19, 229, 232, 269); also Leech's two cartoons. There are copious allusions to it in the *Boston Transcript*, May 6, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 21, 26-29, 31, 1851. Two ladies appeared in "Bloomers" on May 10 in New York.

- 1851 The Turkish Dress. On Saturday afternoon, says the *Times* (Boston), a young lady of 18, daughter of a well-known West End citizen, made her appearance on Cambridge street, accompanied with her father, dressed in a round hat, short dress, fitting tightly, and pink satin trousers....The same young lady was out yesterday afternoon, for a walk around the Common and upon the Neck....The *Bee* says the daughter of Dr. Hanson, of this city, appeared in the *Bloomer suit* at a convention at South Reading last week.—*The Transcript*, May 26, p. 2/3.
- 1851 The New Costume. The first "*Bloomer*" made it appearance in our city yesterday. [*Worcester Spy*.]—*Id.*, May 29, p. 2/4.
- 1851 The New Costume.—A Lowell correspondent of the *Bee* says quite a large number of young ladies have made arrangements to attend church to-morrow in the *Bloomer costume*.—*Id.*, May 31, p. 2/4.
- 1851 National Theatre. This evening, June 2, Will be performed a new, whimsical, satirical, and comical Burletta, entitled the *Bloomer Rig*: Or, The Revolutionists of the 19th Century.—*Id.*, June 2, p. 3/4.
- 1851 Leech's cartoons in *Punch*, Sept. 27, Nov. 8.
- 1852 Grammarians have discovered a new gender, viz. the "*Bloomer*,"—half way between the masculine and feminine, with a touch of the neuter.—*Frontier Guardian*, Jan. 9 (Kanesville, Iowa, edited by Orson Hyde).
- 1852 I should not like to have *Bloomers* about my house, but folks have different notions, and there is no accounting for taste. Besides, I understand that there are some very clever folks at the North who put on that dress.—Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina, House of Repr., June 14: *Cong Globe*, p. 707, App.

**Bloomer, Bloomerism—contd.**

- 1852 We consider *Bloomerism* as the most dangerous of modern "isms." . . . . The *Bloomers* once triumphant, no prophetic ken will be required to read their future tactics.—*Bloomerism* : an essay by Tho. W. Lane of Georgia : *Knick. Mag.*, xl. 240-1 (Sept.).
- 1853 A *Bloomer* was seen in Cleveland the other day. Her skirts were unusually short.—*Daily Morning Herald*, April 12 (St. Louis).
- 1854 A party "scotched but not killed," traitors to the Constitution and the Union, with the black banner of Abolition for their ensign, a Garrison for their leader, and garrisons of whitened sepulchres "holding forth" on the Sabbath to gloomy and fanatical assemblages; Spiritualists and Millerites, *Bloomers* wearing the apparel of men, and men wrapped in the apparel of women.—Mr. Chastain of Georgia, House of Representatives, May 20 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 717, Appendix.
- 1855 Perhaps Lawrence [Kansas] is the only city in America where the majority of the ladies wear *Bloomers*.—*Kansas Tribune*, n.d.
- 1855 [These women] generally become "*Bloomers*" about the time when they cease to bloom.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 47 (Jan.).
- 1857 She was pretty far gone in *Bloomerism*.—Charles Reade, 'True Love,' ii. 153. (N.E.D.)
- 1859 I don't like the *Bloomers* any too well,—in fact I never saw but one.—'The Professor at the Breakfast Table,' chap. vii.

**Blow.** A flower.

- 1797 Downing, in 'Disorders of Horned Cattle,' p. 31, mentions "Fox-glove *blows*." (N.E.D.)
- 1824 As thick as seven bumble bees on a punkin *blow*.—*Old Colony Memorial*, March 6 (Plymouth).
- a.1854 As gently as a breeze ever scupped a *bean-blow*.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 73.
- 1856 Phil suggested to her that "the large *blow*" was inconvenient to be carried.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 226 (Sept.).
- 1869 Miss Asphyxia had one name for all flowers. She called them all *blows*, and they were divided in her mind into two classes; namely, *blows* that were good to dry, and *blows* that were not.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Oldtown Folks,' chap. viii.
- 1878 Feelin's ain't worth a red cent without they come to facts, no more 'n flowers that ain't *fruit-blows*.—Rose T Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' chap. xii.

**Blow in.** To waste one's cash riotously. Modern slang.**Blow, v.** To swagger, to boast.

- 1840 [I advise them] to treat with contempt all the blasting, *blowing*, blustering, and bullying displays they may see here or elsewhere.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Representatives, Jan. 9 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 50, Appendix.

**Blower.** A braggart.

1863 General Grant is not one of the "*blower*" generals.—"Manhattan" in the *Ev. Standard*, Dec. 10. (N.E.D.)

**Blower.** A regulator of the draught in a grate.

1795 The *blower* was let down close to the top of the grate.—Patent Specification, No. 2032. (N.E.D.)

1812 The *blower* should reach to the lowest bar of the grate, and be taken off after the coal is once kindled.—Advt., *Boston-Gazette*, Sept. 14.

**Blowhard.** Boastful, blustering.

1855 The *Oregonian* of last week has a *blowhard* article on the subject.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, July 21.

1894 [New Jersey.] 'Dialect Notes,' i. 328.

**Blow-out.** A feast, a jollification.

1825 We had a *blow-out* last Sunday, and half a dozen troublesome fellows they call justices were done for by the brave rowdies.—Jas. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 198 (Lond.).

**Bludge barrels.** What these were is uncertain. The expression is not known at the Admiralty, Whitehall.

1799 Among military stores, "Port taugles" and "*Bludge barrels*" are advertised.—*The Aurora*, Dec. 2 (Phila.).

**Blue-beards.** See quotation.

1841 [They have been] in company with "*blue-beards*," who are ragged, dirty, brawling, browbeating monsters, six feet high, whose vocation is robbing, drinking, fighting, and terrifying every peaceable man. — Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina, House of Representatives, Feb. 18: *Congressional Globe*, p. 359, Appendix.

**Blue-eat.** A kind of cat-fish.

1855 In this [dug-out] sat a youth, fishing for *blue-cat* and perch. The *blue-cat* of the Edisto is one of the nicest fish that swims.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' p. 275 (N.Y.).

**Blue grass.** *Poa compressa*.

1784 This land lies open to the barrens, where there are many hundred acres without timber, and thick set with *blue grass*.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Aug. 17.

1817 White clover, and the much esteemed *blue grass* (*Poa compressa*).—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 308.

1834 The hardy *blue grass* afforded a rich sward beneath the boughs.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' ii. 150 (Lond., 1835).

1835 A beautiful carpet of short, luxuriant *blue grass*.—James Hall, 'Tales of the Border,' p. 214 (Phila.).

1888 A *blue-grass* farm with blooded horses, &c., was my husband's ideal home.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 340.

1909 He manages to find time to work a farm down in the *Blue Grass* region of Kentucky.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Jan. 21.

**Blue hen's chickens.** The people of Delaware.

- 1840 In the revolutionary war, . . . . Captain Caldwell [of Delaware] had a company . . . . called by the rest "Caldwell's game cocks," and the regiment after a time in Carolina was nicknamed from this "*the blue hen's chickens*" and the "*blue chickens*." . . . . But after they had been distinguished in the south the name of the *Blue Hen* was applied to the state. . . . The whigs of the revolution never ceased to boast of the Blue Hen and her chickens.—*Niles' National Register*, May 9, p. 154/3.
- 1840 A writer in the *Delaware Journal*, over the signature of the old revolutionary appellation of "*The Blue Hen's Chickens*," says, &c.—*Id.*, Dec. 5, p. 210/1.
- 1844 At the Whig Convention in Baltimore, *The Blue Hen's Chickens* was the name of a club from Kent county, having a significant banner, representing a chicken coop.—*Id.*, May 18, p. 183/2. See also p. 185/3.
- 1856 Yes, sir, the *blue hen's chickens*, the descendants of the cocks which crowed and fought so bravely in the times which tried men's souls; and game ones at that.—Mr. Cullen of Delaware, House of Repr., July 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1056, Appendix.
- 1861 *Blue Hen's Chickens* to the front! Forward! March!—*Delaware Inquirer*, May 5 (Bartlett).

**Blue-jay.** The *cyanurus cristatus*.

- 1792 The crow, the *blue jay*, the wood pecker, and the partridge are seen flying.—Jeremy Belknap, 'History of New Hampshire,' iii. 173.
- 1794 I would not shoot a *blue jay*, while the Eagle is to be come at.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., May 8.
- 1807 The *blue jay*, that is charmed by a black snake into its very jaws.—*The Repertory* (Boston), Jan. 2.
- 1818 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent the killing of Crows, Blackbirds, Owls, *Bluejays*, and Hawks, at any season of the year.—Act of Assembly, Mass., Feb. 12.
- 1821 They found a *blue-jay* flying in a horizontal direction.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 56 (New-haven).
- 1826 [I did not see] a single bird except the *blue jay*.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 262.
- 1844 No sound broke the stillness, but the occasional screeching of a *blue-jay*, &c.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 133.
- 1844 The shrill cry of the *blue-jay* becomes a scream.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 159 (Phila.).
- 1847 I have known many a fellow returned from an academy, who had no more ideas of his own than a *blue-jay*.—D. P. Thompson, 'Locke Amsden,' p. 60 (Boston).

**Blue laws.** Certain customary laws of Connecticut, not having the force of statute, commonly cited as illustrating the ideals of Puritanism.

- 1775 See an incident told by Burnaby ('Travels in N. America,' pp. 85-86) of an English captain, whipped in Massachusetts Bay for kissing his wife on a Sunday, who retaliated in kind.
- 1781 Some of the blue laws, which were never officially printed, are given by Samuel Peters, 'History of Connecticut,' pp. 63-69 (Lond.).
- 1805 The *Connecticut Courant* retaliated by publishing some of the obsolete enactments of the "Old Dominion," under the heading of "*Blue Laws of Virginia*." See *The Repository* (Boston), Jan. 8.
- 1806 If a priest shall come into this Government, he shall be admonished and led out—for a second offence, he shall be driven out,—and for a third offence, suffer death. See *Blue Laws of Connecticut*. The words are not exactly quoted, but we believe the sense is strictly retained.—*Balt. Ev. Post*, March 17, p. 3/2.
- 1814 Connecticut, in her *blue laws*, laying it down as a principle, that the laws of God should be the laws of the land.—Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, Jan. 24: from Monticello.
- 1816 Our Eastern forefathers . . . came to avoid persecution, and they began to persecute; they hung honest women for witches; and they enacted a *black and blue code of by-laws*.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters,' p. 43 (Boston, 1824).
- 1817 The ignorant and the prejudiced have so long ridiculed the "*blue laws*" of Connecticut, that, &c.—*Mass Spy*, Oct. 15.
- 1826 The *Salem Observer* contains particulars of a trial which took place in Conn. in 1760, under that section of the *blue laws* which prohibited kissing.—*Id.*, March 1.
- 1835 In "Natchez under the hill," the Sabbath is not observed according to the strictest letter of the old "*blue laws*."—Ingraham, 'The South-West,' ii. 54.
- 1854 I know that Connecticut, in the olden time, was libeled by a Tory renegade, who absconded to England to perpetrate his vindictive falsehood, as the *Blue Law State*.—Mr. Gillette of Conn., U.S. Senate, July 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1618.

**Blue-light.** See quotation, 1858.

- 1844 [He was] as rank a *blue-light* federal whig as ever justified the Hartford Convention, or worshipped a coon.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Representatives, March 6: *Congressional Globe*, p. 399, Appendix.
- 1846 [This talk about not fighting for Oregon] might sound very well for a city where *blue-lights* had been in fashion, but it grated unpleasantly to an American heart.—Mr. Martin of Tennessee, the same, Feb. 6: *id.*, p. 325.

**Blue-light—contd.**

- 1847 Where, tell me where, have you buried the sins of these "old *blue lights*" of New Hampshire? With what magic wand have you changed their Federalism into modern Democracy?—Mr. Culver of N.Y., the same, Jan. 20: *id.*, p. 252, App.
- 1848 The late war with Great Britain was unpopular with the *blue-light* Federalists.—Mr. Ficklin of Illinois, the same, March 2: *id.*, p. 418.
- 1848 There were birds of every feather [in the Philadelphia Convention] — *blue-light* Federalists, no-territory men, abolitionists, &c.—Mr. Foote of Mississippi in the Senate, June 22: *id.*, p. 866.
- 1850 Such men aided England in the days of the Revolution; held out *blue-lights* to her in 1812.—Mr. Savage of Tenn., House of Repr., May 13: *id.*, p. 558, App.
- 1858 They met in convention at Hartford, in that odorous land of the nutmeg and the onion; and, worse than that, they hoisted *blue-lights* at New London, that [the] enemy might know where to strike us.—Mr. Maynard of Tenn., the same, March 20: *id.*, p. 1209.

**Blue-nose.** A native of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. Quot. 1830 is exceptional.

- 1830 A real "*blue-nose*," fresh from the land of steady habits. —*Northern Watchman* (Troy, N.Y.), Nov. 30.
- 1837–40 Haliburton. (N.E.D.)
- 1853 A little boy, accompanying his mother to New Brunswick, said to her: "Mother, are these all *Blue Noses*?" "Hush! Yes, my dear." "Mother, where *are* their blue noses?" —*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlii. 545 (Nov.).
- 1857 Several papers headed "A Month with the *Blue Noses*," by F. S. Cozzens, appeared in the *Knickerbocker Magazine* during the year.
- 1859 De Sauty: an electro-chemical dialogue, between "Professor" and *Blue-Nose*.—'Professor at the Breakfast Table,' chap. i.

**Blue, till all is.** For an indefinite period. The N.E.D. supplies a quotation, 1616, "They drink.... Vntill their adle heads doe make the ground Seeme blew vnto them."

- 1806 The land we till is all our own;  
Whate'er the price, we paid it;  
Therefore we'll fight *till all is blue*,  
Should any dare invade it.

*The Balance*, July 22 (p. 232)

**Bluff.** See quotations.

- 1737 Savannah stands on a flat *bluff*, so they term any high land hanging over a creek or river.—John Wesley. (N.E.D.)
- 1797 "*Bluff*" is a name given in this country to any promontory of land that terminates almost perpendicularly.—Fra. Baily, F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 261 (Lond., 1856).

**Bluff**—*contd.*

- 1817 The ascent from this valley is precipitous, and is called "the Bluff"; it may consist of rock and clay. Betwixt these *bluffs* the river runs in a very crooked channel, and is perpetually changing its bed, as the only permanent bounds are the *bluffs*.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 45, n.
- 1823 The immediate valley of the Missouri is bounded on both sides by chains of rocky *bluffs*.—E. James, 'Rocky Mtns. Expedition,' i. 88 (Philadelphia).
- 1833 The *river bluffs* on the opposite shore were never more than a mile from us.—'Narrative of J. O. Pattie,' p. 97 (Cincinnati).
- 1841 Many years ago you erected a light-house on the *bluff* at Natchez.—Mr. Thompson of Miss., House of Repr., Jan. 23: *Cong. Globe*, p. 177, App.

**Bluffing.** Imposing on another with a show of force, where no real force exists: a phrase taken from the game of poker.

- 1850 I cannot look upon the effort of Texas in any other light than a *bluffing*, brow-beating game, to wrench that territory from a weaker neighbor.—Mr. Meacham of Vermont, House of Repr., May 14: *Cong. Globe*, p. 606, Appendix.
- 1854 I did not take the slightest exception to the Senator saying that he was playing a little game of brag. We both know how that game is played. I thought I would *bluff* back on him.—Mr. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, U.S. Senate, May 3: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1070.
- 1885 He went his whole heart, soul, and pocket on three aces, and was *bluffed* by his opponent with a pair of trays.—*N.Y. Weekly Sun*, May 13. (N.E.D.)
- 1910 It was felt by the Canadians that the threat of the maximum was one that we did not dare to carry out, on account of the injury which such an increase of duties on Canadian products would inflict on our own people. They regarded it as a *bluff*; and, if they did not actually *call the bluff*, they came as near doing so as could be done without putting us in a position where we might have been compelled, for the sake of saving our face, to plunge into a tariff war, however little we liked to do so.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 31.

**Blunt Cartridge.** This seems to be an earlier form of *blank cartridge*, which latter appears (N.E.D.) in 1826.

- 1799 The Militia Legion will form, provided as heretofore with *blunt cartridge*.—*The Aurora* (Phila.), July 11.
- 1799 The same notice is published.—*Id.*, Oct. 5.
- 1800 *Blunt cartridge* is named in two separate notices.—*Id.*, April 30.

**Board round.** See quot. 1866.

- 1858 I "*boarded round*," a significant phrase, whose meaning every poor country schoolmaster learns, with all its variations.—*Knick. Mag.*, li. 31 (Jan.).



**Board round**—*contd.*

- 1866 [If the schoolmaster] *boards round*, great is the parade, and great the preparation, by each family, when their "week of boarding the master" comes round.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 76.
- 1872 It was well for Ralph that he began to "*board round*" by stopping at Mrs. Means's.—E. Eggleston, 'The Hoosier Schoolmaster,' p. 3.

**Board-nail.** A nail of a large size.

- 1770 A Moses Boat, with the Larboard Gunwale broke, and mended with *Board Nails* amidships.—Advt., *Mass. Gazette*, Jan. 29.
- 1833 Mr. Van Buren marched out of the room, looking as though he could bite a *board nail* off.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 226 (1860).
- 1866 And then father would look gritty enough to bite a *board nail* in two.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 62.
- 1867 He had been known to bite a fig in two,  
And change a *board-nail* for a shingle-nail.  
J. R. Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story.'

**Boatable.** Navigable by boats.

- 1683 The Schuylkill being an hundred miles *boatable* below the falls.—W. Penn, 'Descr. of Pennsylvania.' (N.E.D.)
- 1786 The phrase "*boatable waters*" occurs in chap. ii. of the 'Constitution of Vermont.' (Bartlett.)
- 1796 General Cleveland explored the river Cuyahoga, which was *boatable*.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 30.
- 1805 [The Hockhocking] is *boatable* about seventy-five miles.—Thaddeus M. Harris, 'State of Ohio,' p. 109.
- 1826 We were almost daily passing the mouths of *boatable* streams.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 22.
- 1830 It is a calm and *boatable* stream, quite to its recesses in the Rocky Mountains.—T. Flint, 'The Shoshonee Valley,' i. 95 (Cincinnati).

**Boat-horn.** One used for signalling.

- 1835 One fellow tried to sing, that was not half up to a Mississippi *boat-horn*.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 87 (Phila.).

**Boat-horn.** See quotation.

- 1843 [A boat-horn] consists of the horn of an ox attached to the extremity of a wooden handle, and is used in sloops and other river craft to wet the sails.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 71.

**Boat-ride.** An excursion in a boat.

- 1842 The released [turtle] was gratified with a *boat-ride*, and finally returned to his native element.—'Lowell Offering,' iii. 59.

**Boat-wreck.** The analogue of a shipwreck.

- 1826 [He] had been, as he said, *boat-wrecked* half a dozen times.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 82.



**Boblincoln, Bobolink.**

- 1792 The *Boblincoln*, *Emberiza oryzivora*, is mentioned in Jeremy Belknap's 'New Hampshire,' iii. 173.
- 1796 Also in Morse's 'Am. Geography.' (N.E.D.)
- 1809 The luxurious little *boblincon* revels among the clover-blossoms of the meadows.—W. Irving, 'History of New York,' i. 124 (1812).
- 1826 [In Missouri] I saw early in the spring a flock of those merry and chattering birds, that we call *bob-a-link*, or French blackbird.—T. Flint, 'Recollections.' p. 243.
- 1832 The *Boblincon* is a well known meadow bird, always full of life and chatter, called in the southern states the Rice-bird.—Williamson, 'History of Maine,' i. 141 (Hallowell).
- 1842 I had listened to the songs of the robin and *bob-a-lincon*.—'Lowell Offering,' ii. 208.
- 1847 I heard her voice, which was sweeter than a *bob-o'-linck's*.—'Tom Pepper,' i. 145.
- α.1870 Gladness of woods, skies, waters, all in one,  
The *bobolink* has come, and, like the soul  
Of the sweet season vocal in a bird,  
Gurgles in ecstasy we know not what,  
Save, *June, Dear June ! Now God be praised for June !*  
J. R. Lowell, 'Under the Willows.'

**Bob-sled.** See quot, 1851. Examples in Bartlett, 1848–1860.

- 1851 The teams [draw] after them a short sled, called a "*bob-sled*": probably so named for the bobbing motion it has while drawn over the rough ground.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 94 (N.Y.).
- 1909 The men took a *bob-sled* out on a hill, and were riding down on the snow crust.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Feb. 18.

**Bob-white.** The common partridge. (1864, Webster.)

- 1908 A *bob-white* was calling in the meadow across the dusty road.—Eliza C. Hall, 'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 46.

**Bodaciously.** An absurd exaggeration of *bodily*.

- 1833 It's a mercy that the cowardly varments hadn't used you up *bodyaciously*.—Jas. Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 38. (Phila.).
- 1833 You never seed sich a poor afflicted crittur as I, with the misery in my tooth; it seems like it would just use me up *bodyaciously*.—*Id.*, p. 82.
- 1833 [I cannot] regale you with the delicate repast of a constant repetition of the terms *bodyaciously*, teetotaciously, obfisticated, &c. — Preface to 'Sketches of David Crockett.'
- 1840 [It has been proclaimed abroad] that the Administration is *bodaciously* used up.—Mr. Wick of Indiana in the House of Representatives, July 20: *Congressional Globe*, p. 545.
- 1843 It was now snowing *bodaciously* fast....I gets *bodaciously* sker'd and hollows agin like the very Old Harry.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 175–176.

**Bodaciously**—*contd.*

- 1878 I saw a man in Stockton, Cal., who had been "*bodaciously* chewed up" to use his own language, by a grizzly bear.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 118.
- 1904 You was ruinin' yoreselves *bodaciously*.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 69 (Harpers).

**Body yaws.** See quotation.

- 1775 The chronic diseases are....among blacks the leprosy, elephantiasis, and *body yaws*; which last in Carolina is called the lame distemper....I have seen three or four instances of the disease called *body yaws*, in the Islands.—Bernard Romans, 'Florida,' pp. 249, 256.

**Bogue.** See quotation.

- 1826 [The people of Western Florida] are a wild race, with but little order or morals; they are generally denominated "*Bogues*," and call themselves "rosin heels."—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 319.

**Bogus.** Anything sham or forged. The origin of the word is obscure. See N.E.D.

*Bogus*, says Mr. Lowell, Introduction to the 'Biglow Papers,' 1866, "is, I more than suspect, a corruption of the French *bagasse* (from low Latin *bagasea*), which travelled up the Mississippi from New Orleans." [See BAGASSE.]

- 1827 He never procured the casting of a *Bogus* at one of our furnaces.—*Painesville* (Ohio) *Telegraph*, July 6. (N.E.D.)
- 1840 Half-dollars, principally *bogus*.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 227.
- 1842 Cowdery, Whitman, and others were guilty of perjury, cheating, selling *bogus money* (base coin), and even stones and sand for *bogus*.—John A. Clark, 'Gleanings by the Way,' p. 340.
- 1844 To bolster up the interests of blacklegs and *bogus-makers*.—*Nauroo Neighbor*, June 12.
- 1844 A *bogus press* for making counterfeit money was dug up near Lyme, Huron County, Pa., on Monday last.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Oct. 12.
- 1848 No luggage, nor no nothing, but a roll of *bogus*.—W. E. Burton's 'Waggeries,' p. 90 (Phila.).
- 1850 We employed that same Bill Hickman to ferret out a *bogus press* and a gang of counterfeiters that were going into operation in our frontier country. James H. Mulholland was one of the principal actors in the *bogus* business....A part of the *bogus machine* has been found here in Mulholland's possession.—*Frontier Guardian* (ed. by Orson Hyde), Jan. 23.
- 1853 [The Magicians of Egypt] produced a very good *bogus*, but it was not quite the true coin.—Brigham Young, Aug. 14: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 270.

**Bogus**—*contd.*

a.1856 Crocodile tears are *bogus*.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 216.

1857 I must have paid you for my supper with a *bogus* half-dollar.—*Herald of Freedom* (Lawrence, Kas.), Aug. 22.

1863 [Throughout Texas] the spirit of insurrection existed long before the vote on secession, ordered by the "*bogus*" Convention, had been taken.—O. J. Victor, 'History of the Southern Rebellion,' ii. 32.

1867 There is a *bogus* assessor in town, and we are going to hang him.—A. D. Richardson, 'Beyond the Mississippi,' p. 49.

1867 "MORE BOGUS. Joe Logan was arrested a week ago by 'X,' for manufacturing *bogus* gold dust." — Helena (Mont.) paper, cited in A. K. McClure's 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 378 (Phila.).

**Boll.** See quot. 1853.

1826 [The Mississippi] is full of singular *boils*, where the water rises with a strong circular motion, forming a convex mass of waters, which roll down and are incessantly renewed.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 87.

1829 He studied the currents, the *boils* and eddies, the marks of shallow and deep water.—Timothy Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 124 (Boston).

1853 These "*boils*," as the boatmen call them, are immense upheavings of the moving waters [of the Missouri], which rise with a convex surface, sometimes spreading out to near half an acre, and which whirl a loaded flat-boat round like a top.—*Putnam's Monthly*, Aug.

**Boiled crow.** The defeated party in an election is said to eat this dish.

1872 Both [are], in the curious slang of American politics, "*boiled crow*" to their adherents.—*Daily News*, July 31. (N.E.D.)

**Boiled dinner.** Meat and vegetables boiled together in the New England manner.

1878 Slabs of fat, adding savor and strength to a *b'iled dinner*. —Rose T. Cooke, 'Cal Culver and the Devil,' *Harper's Mag.*, lvii. 575.

1897 The woman brought in a good *boiled dinner* of corned beef, potatoes, turnips, and carrots.—W. D. Howells, 'Landlord at Lion's Head,' chap. iii.

**Boiler deck.** The lower deck.

1835 [You] quit the cabin for the *boiler-deck*, or, still better, for the hurricane-deck above. — C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' i. 294 (Lond.).

1838 He had followed his friend, the Kentuckian, to the *boiler-deck*.—R. M. Bird, 'Peter Pilgrim,' i. 86 (Phila.).

1875 See TEXAS DECK.

**Bolt, Bolter.** To bolt a nomination or a ticket is to desert one's party by opposing it.

- 1812 Should an Albany Caucus take our kingship in hand,  
Our veto would addle Dewitt's nomination ;  
For unmov'd on the back stairs D. Tompkins would stand,  
And send home the *bolters* by new prorogation.

*Salem Gazette*, July 10, 4/1.

- 1813 Some respectable members [of the N.H. Leg.], who voted against the judiciary law in June, now voted in favour of it. Others, ashamed to make further opposition, to so excellent a system, but without sufficient courage to do their duty, *bolted* the question.—*Portsmouth* (N.H.) *Oracle*, Nov. 20, 2/3.
- 1847 [I said] that I had never *bolted* a regular nomination of the Democratic party, from President to constable.—Mr. Wentworth of Ill., House of Repr., Feb. 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 322.
- 1854 Uncle R. was not much of a politician ; but he would often "*bolt*" and carry the town with him.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xliii. 522 (May).
- 1855 We met from 50 to 100 emigrants yesterday, going up the river to vote. One man has returned, saying that they passed a vote to kill Gov. Reeder [of Kansas], for which he *bolted* and returned.—*Kansas Herald of Freedom*, Oct. 6, 3/4.
- 1858 It is known that there would have been some such a *bolt* from the nominations, had the nominations been made.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Jan. 8, 2/3.
- 1858 The Delegate Convention determined not to vote. A few disaffected got up a *bolting* ticket. . . . An attempt was made by several persons to make the people go into the election and harmonize the *bolters*.—*Id.*, Jan. 12, 2/3.
- 1858 Some of the Free-State bolters had got out one of these nominally Free-State "Democrats," who are qualified for either side, and the Lecomptonists and the "anti-Lecompton" Democracy of Lecompton went off on this *bolt*, doing it secretly. [Refers to Kansas.]—*Id.*, April 1, 3/3.
- 1858 This convention of *bolters* and office-holders could not find one man in the State for them to run for a State officer who was not an anti-Nebraska man.—Mr. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, U.S. Senate, June 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 3058.
- 1858 Mr. Elmore [A. E. Elmore of 1st District, Wisconsin] is personally very popular, but has strong enemies in the ranks of the Democracy, he having "*bolted*" party nominations at pleasure, and just as often as they did not suit, of late.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Aug. 3, 5/5.

**Bolt, Bolter**—*contd.*

- 1858 Carrying the boys of the machine shops with him, he [Dexter F. Parker of Worcester, Mass.] got nominated for the Senate. At this the respectability and Anti-Slavery of Worcester, which endured Mr. Thayer's greater offense with the utmost quietness, *bolted*, and a new candidate has been nominated.—*Id.*, Oct. 23, 6/5.
- 1858 You [Robert C. Winthrop] *bolted* when you thought it best to *bolt*, just as you stuck by Freedom and Massachusetts opinion when you thought it best to stick by them.—*Id.*, Nov. 3, 4/4.
- ✓ 1860 Remember that Stephen A. Douglas is a *bolter* from the party, is a bogus Democrat, &c.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 2, p. 1/8.
- 1861 *Bolt* a fraudulent nomination, scratch every unworthy candidate.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Oct. 3 (Bartlett).
- 1862 He was, like his opponent, a *bolter* candidate, a man who *bolted* from his own convention.—*Rocky Mountain News* (Denver), Sept. 11.
- 1883 To whom a "scratcher" or a "*bolter*" is more hateful than the Beast.—*Atlantic Monthly*, lii. 327.
- 1909 "What was the first attack?"  
 "Carmack called me a *bolter*."  
 "Didn't you *bolt the ticket* and vote for Gen. Fussell? . . .  
 Didn't you *bolt the regular ticket*?"  
 "No, sir, I did not, There were two regular Democratic tickets."—Cooper trial at Nashville, Tenn., *N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 25.

**Bomb-proof.** A Southerner who did not join the Confederate army.

- 1877 While the war lasted, it was the delight of some of the stoutly built fellows to go home for a few days, and kick and cuff and tongue-lash the able-bodied *bomb-proofs*.—*'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,'* ii. 229 (Richmond, Va.).

**Bon.** Good, thorough. Obsolete.

- 1812 The agent employs those men only who are *bon* republicans to do the necessary repairs [on the U.S. frigates].—*Boston-Gazette*, Sept. 17.

**Bonanza.** A profitable mine, with reference to the "Bonanza Mine"; hence, any piece of good luck in an investment.

- 1866 The *Saturday Review*, concerning the mine itself. (N.E.D.)
- 1878 [He was working] in the daily hope of striking a *bonanza*.—J. H. Beadle, *'Western Wilds,'* p. 46.
- 1881 The Star-route Cases a Fat *Bonanza*.—Heading in *The Critic* (Washington), Dec. 23.

**Bone up.** To bristle up.

- 1888 I have known the General to "*bone up*," as his West Point phrase expressed it, on the smallest details of some questions at issue in the Republican party, for no other reason than to fire his parent into a defense.—Mrs. Custer, *'Tenting on the Plains,'* p. 286.

**Booby Hut.** A hooded sleigh.

- 1766 A very neat *Booby-Hutch* to be sold cheap for Cash.—*Boston-Gazette*, Dec. 29.
- 1767 A close Sley or *Bubby Hutch*.—*Id.*, Feb. 2. (This is corrected a week later to *Booby Hutch*.)
- 1812 The subscriber thanks all those "who have favoured him with painting their *Booby Hutts* and Sleighs."—*Boston-Gazette*, Dec. 7.
- 1812 He has on hand, for sale, a number of *Booby Huts* and Carriages.—*Id.*, Dec. 28.
- 1813 The Subscriber has one *Booby Hut* only for sale. That *Booby Hutt*, if correctly informed, was built at Hatchett's Coach Ware House, Long Acre, London, 110 years since.—*Id.*, Jan. 18.
- 1846 Some of the ladies of the wealthy classes [in Boston] are seen in the very cold weather driving about in a covered conveyance, enclosed partly with glass; it is a monstrously grotesque-looking affair, and its name is worthy of the appearance; it is called a "*Booby-hut*."—Eliot Warburton, 'Hochelaga,' ii. chap. vi.
- 1888 They collided with Crowley's *booby hack*, knocking the horse down.—*Boston Daily Globe*, n.d. (Farmer).

**Boodle.** A crowd, a lot of people.

- 1833 I know a feller 'twould whip the whool *boodle* of 'em an' give 'em six.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 61.
- 1833 He declared he'd fight the whole *boodle* of 'em.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 183 (1860).
- 1847 [He] stumped all the rest to come on, one at a time, and there wasn't a soul of the whole *boodle* that dared do it.—D. P. Thompson, 'Locke Amsden,' p. 76 (Boston).
- 1858 He would like to have the whole *boodle* of them shipwrecked (I remonstrated against this word, but the Professor said it was a diabolish good word, and he would have no other).—'Autocrat of the Breakfast Table,' chap. v.

**Boodle.** Money stolen by politicians.

- 1858 *Boodle* is a flash term used by counterfeiters....The leaders [of the gang] were the manufacturers and bankers of the *boodle*.—*Harper's Weekly*, April 3.
- 1888 The office [of a City Councilman] is an unsalaried one, and any money that is made out of it is *boodle*.—*Philadelphia Bulletin*, Feb. 24 (Farmer).
- 1909 "*Boodle*" in Pittsburgh. Looters know not when or how probe will end.—Headlines, *N.Y. Ev. Post*, Jan. 11.

**Book concern.** An establishment for printing and handling books.

- 1851 We print because we can frank, and we frank because we print, till this House has become the greatest "*book concern*" in the Union.—Mr. Root of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 170.

**Bookstore.** A place where books are sold.

- 1796 [A man] wants employment in a *Bookstore*, Compting House, or Public Office.—*The Aurora* (Phila.), Dec. 3.
- 1799 —The *bookstores* of this city.—*Id.*, Jan. 19.
- 1805 Samuel Butler inserts an advt. of his “*Baltimore Bookstore*” in the *Balt. Ev. Post*, April 30, p. 1/4.
- 1805 All the preceding Books may be had at the above *Bookstores*.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, May 22.
- 1810 *Edinburgh Review*, xvii. 121. (N.E.D.)
- 1814 While residing in Paris [I examined] all the principal *bookstores*, turning over every book with my own hand, and putting by everything which related to America.—Tho. Jefferson to S. H. Smith, Sept. 21.
- 1818 *Bookstores* afford the best data from which can be calculated the state of public literary improvement.—W. Darby, ‘*Tour to Detroit*,’ p. 22 (1819).

**Booky.** Bookish, literary.

- 1833 What! You’re one of the *booky* fellers, that think on one thing while they are talking about another.—J. K. Paulding, ‘*The Banks of the Ohio*,’ i. 194 (Lond.).
- 1880 Lessons....which come not of *booky* teaching, but of experience.—Mark Twain, ‘*Tramp Abroad*,’ ii. 202. (N.E.D.)

**Boom, Boomer, Booming.** To boom is to rush along; also, to give an impetus, to urge onward.

- 1850 Shall the army which finds itself on the wrong side of a *booming* river, rush headlong in?—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, U.S. Senate, April 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 531, App.
- 1879 [They are] all “*booming*” for U. S. Grant.—*Indianapolis Journal*, Apr. 23. (N.E.D.)
- 1879 Every one says business is *booming*.—*Lumberman's Gazette*, Oct. 15. (N.E.D.)
- 1879 There has not been the *boom* upon lumber experienced in many other articles of merchandise.—*Id.*, Dec. 19. (N.E.D.)
- 1879 The trickery....of the leading *boomster*.—*The Nation*, Oct. 9 (N.Y.). (N.E.D.)
- 1885 The Oklahoma *boomers*.—*Boston Journal*, Aug. 19. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 The city of Paris is said to be diminishing in population. They don’t know how to *boom* a town over there.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, n.d. (Farmer).
- 1890 He was an old-time *boomer*, and had lately come to California, because he fancied he heard the rumble of a coming *boom*.—Van Dyke, ‘*Millionaires of a Day*,’ p. 61.



**Boost.** To shove up, to lift up by pressure from below.

1825 Shall I give him a *boost*? or no?—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 101.

1826 The crooks, in danger of being *boosted* (*sic*), were compelled to knock under.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 29.

1830 I got a pretty good *boost* in Boston, by the editors giving me recommendations.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 114 (1860).

1833 You may give me a *boost* if you like.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 119.

1834 [I will make them] do it, if I see it gives any on 'em a *boost* with his party.—'Major Jack Downing, Letters,' p. 119 (N.Y.).

1845 There is one poor fellow getting his comrade to *boost* him, while he hangs to the skirts of the one above.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xi. 34.

a.1847 Spit upon your hands,—lay hold of the rope of Faith,—let Hope give you a *boost*.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 47.

a.1847 It is remarkable what a *boost* the sudden possession of a few dollars can give a chap.—*Id.*, i. 105.

a.1853 Marriage sometimes gives a man a good *boost* towards the summit of earthly happiness.—*Id.*, iii. 134.

1854 I thought each member of the choir imagined the songs of praise would never get to heaven if he didn't give them a personal *boost* in the shape of an extra yell.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Dec. 9.

1855 Polygamy in Utah, by their bill,  
Is *boosted* from its slough upon a hill  
Or eminence, like gods of ancient Rome  
Dragged from its infernal Salt Lake catacomb.

*Id.*, 'Carriers' Address,' Jan. 6.

1856 He had "*boosted*" me along before him by the shoulders.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlviii. 286 (Sept.).

1857 It was with cheerful counsel that Hiram began to *boost* Sam up the tree of virtue.—*Id.*, xlix. 42 (Jan.).

1860 Proceeding much the same as persons who load saw-logs, we managed to *boost* the cage up.—James C. Adams, 'Adventures,' p. 306 (S.F.).

1862 Whereas old Abe 'ud sink afore he'd let a darkie *boost* him, Ef Taney shouldn't come along an hedn't introduced him.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd. S., No. 3.

1907 [At a book-auction] little disposition to *boost* the cost of this or that musty, dog-eared volume was apparent.—*Philadelphia Inquirer*, Nov. 28.

1909 A few days ago somebody in Kansas saw a \$3,000 job melt from between his fingers because the President, in naming him, was described as having slapped this Kansas politician or *boosted* that one.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, May 24.

1910 Kindliness, optimism, the desire to say a good word for somebody or something, the national inclination to "*boost*" and not to "knock," are admirable virtues. But the virtues must always keep a weather-eye open for the sense of the ridiculous.—*Id.*, Feb. 24.



**Bootee.** A small boot.

1799 For sale, 180 pairs of *bootees*.—*The Aurora* (Phila.), Nov. 15.

1805 Egbert Taylor advertises "Cossacks, Suwarrows, Backstraps, Fire-buckets, Spear and Double-tongues, Full Boots, Three Quarter Boots, *Bootees*, &c."—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, March 29.

1844 We give singular names to articles now-a-days. We all know what "boots" are, and by habit we have learned to comprehend also what "*bootees*" are, though the name is an abominable one.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Dec. 18.

**Booty-race.** Meaning uncertain.

1812 He by pure feats of running (not at a *booty race*) found shelter in a tavern.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 30.

**Border Ruffians.** Those living on the border of civilized settlements.

1856 I am not going to put on an equality....those who have gone to Kansas with Sharpe's rifles in their hands, and the Missouri "*border ruffians*," as they have been termed.—Mr. Butler of S. Carolina, U.S. Senate, March 5: *Cong. Globe*, p. 585.

1856 [The people of Missouri] are not entitled to the epithets of abuse....bestowed upon them; they are not "*border ruffians*."—Mr. Whitfield of Kansas, House of Repr., Aug. 1: *id.*, p. 1867.

1857 A great majority of the people of the West, on the borders, may be emphatically termed "*Border ruffians*." The Eastern people call them by that name.—John Taylor at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 9: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 116.

1860 I only wanted to convince gentlemen....that Indianians made better *border ruffians* than we did.—Mr. Craig of Missouri, House of Repr., Jan. 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 332.

1860 Abe Lincoln is....the beau ideal of a relentless Free-Soil *border ruffian*....a fanatic in philanthropy, and a vulgar mobocrat and Southern hater in political opinions.—'Junius' in the *Richmond Enquirer*, Dec. 4, p. 1/7.

1863 He put a guard at every *Border-ruffian's* door.—Wendell Phillips, 'Speeches,' xvii. 372. (N.E.D.)

1863 The *Border ruffianism* of Kansas.—*The Times*, April 10. (N.E.D.)

**Bore.** A hoax.

1800 "A FEDERAL BORE." Heading of an item concerning the reported death of Thomas Jefferson.—*The Aurora* (Phila.), July 3.

1800 The institution of the Lazy Society was a mere sportive hoax, to *bore* some of the laziness of the District.—*Id.*, Sept. 12.

1811 'Tis thus that Hymen cracks his joke,  
A hoax, a quiz, a *bore* ;  
The Bridegroom's still a "Batchelder,"  
The Bride is not "Muchmore."

*Mass. Spy*, May 1: on the marriage of Mr. Thomas Batchelder to Miss Martha Muchmore.

**Bore.** To annoy. So in 'Henry VIII.,' i. 1. The word assumed new life in America, and examples from 1800 to 1827 have been collected. But continuous English use can be quoted also.

**Borer.** A wood-boring insect or worm.

1789 [The teredo.] I should conceive it a preservative against the *Borer*, so destructive to ships.—*Phil. Transactions*, lxxix. 68. (N.E.D.)

1789 The dismal ravages made among the canes by a most pernicious insect, called the *borer*.—Letter from St. Kitt's, Feb. 13: *American Museum*, v. 414.

1867 —I some misdoubt  
'Twas *borers*, there's sech heaps on 'em about.  
J. R. Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story.'

**Borer.** A bagman, a "drummer." Obs.

1836 [Drummers in Philadelphia] are called *borers*, probably from some resemblance in qualities to a worm that infests fruit trees.—*Public Ledger* (Phila.), Aug. 23.

1854 I should like to say a few words about these "legislative *borers*." . . . "What is a *borer*?" said I. "A *borer*!" said my friend, "why that is an animal that walks on two legs, has brass in his face, iron in his nerves, and railroad tickets in his pockets. . . . They are familiar with all the dodges of the season, understand the ropes about town, and, to members, are the most obsequious gentlemen in the crowd."—Mr. Trout of Pa., House of Repr., May 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 893, App.

1856 Felicien B. blessed the drummers and *borers* of New York.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlviii. 407 (Oct.).

**Boss.** An employer. As an adjective, principal.

1806 May 26. . . . By the time I had finished the letter, I had completely forgotten the errand I was sent on; so I had to return, make an awkward apology to *boss*, and look like a nincompoop.—W. Irving, 'Life and Letters,' i. 171 (1862).  
[Irving's "boss" was Josiah G. Hoffman, a N.Y. lawyer.]

1818 Now I reckon you do not know that my *boss* would not have a single ugly or clever gentleman come to his store, if he cut coloured men; now my *boss*, I guess, ordered me to turn out every coloured man from the store right away, and if I did not he would send me off slick; for the slimmest gentleman in New York would not come to his store if coloured men were let in; but you know all that, sir, I guess, without my telling you; you are an elegant gentleman, too, sir. [A negro barber in Broadway *loquitur*.]  
—H. B. Fearon, 'Sketches of America,' p. 59 (Lond.).

1822 *Master* is not a word in the vocabulary of hired people. *Bos*, a Dutch one of similar import, is substituted for it.—J. Flint, 'Letters,' p. 9. (N.E.D.)



**Bostonian.** See quotation.

- 1782 It was indeed by the name of *Bostonians* that all Americans were known in France then....Coffee-houses took that name, and a game invented at that time, played with cards, was called *Boston*, and is to this day (1830) exceedingly fashionable at Paris by that appellation.—‘Recollections of Samuel Breck,’ Phila., p. 54.

**Botheration.** Perhaps an Americanism; but see the 1801 quotation.

- 1801 I would fairly see it out, and witness the whole *boderation*.—Southey, ‘Life,’ ii. 138. (N.E.D.)
- 1806 A writer in the *Enquirer*, with much humour, recommends to the third party of Virginia to adopt the term *botherism*, instead of *moderism* (*sic*). He says, when the party is spoken of collectively, they may be called the *botherists*, and when their works and operations are alluded to, nothing would be more proper than—*botheration*!—*The Balance*, Jan. 14, p. 11.

**Bottom Dollar.** One’s last dollar.

- 1882 You may bet your *bottom dollar* that I never offer, &c.—‘Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,’ x. 90 (Richmond).
- 1888 It is the right kind of bravery; you may bet your *bottom dollar* on that.—Mr. O’Ferrall in Congress: *Inter-Ocean*, March 7 (Farmer),
- 1904 You bet your *bottom dollar* I’m open to criticism myself.—W. N. Harben, ‘The Georgians,’ p. 43 (Harpers).

**Bottom facts.** The real and full truth.

- 1877 Curiosity has been on the tiptoe these many weeks to know the *bottom facts*.—*N.Y. Tribune*, March 17 (Bartlett).
- 1884 It is earnestly to be hoped that in time we may get at the *bottom facts*.—‘Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,’ xii. 219.

**Boughten.** Used (1793, 1805) by Coleridge and Southey: N.E.D.

- 1825 The sight of the white “*boughten*” stockings provoked [him].—John Neal, ‘Brother Jonathan,’ i. 131.
- 1825 —Where their new brass buckles, or “*boughten*” finery, would bear the candle-light.—*Id.*, i. 139.

**Bounce, Bouncer.** To bounce is to eject summarily.

- 1882 Gibson *Bounced*. A Blackmailer kicked out.—Heading in *Washington Republican*, Jan. 28.
- 1884 Speaker Carlisle has *bounced* his clerk for telling tales out of school.—*Boston Journal*, Oct. 3. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 The [land] jumpers did not go, whereupon the Mayor ordered his force to *bounce* them, and tear down their shanties, &c.—*Cincinnati Gazette*, Feb. 22 (Farmer).

**Bowie, Bowie knife—contd.**

- 1839 The Virginians still maintained their position by force, and presented *bowie knives*, dirks, &c., threatening the lives of all those who would lay hands on them or the prisoner, and all this in open court.—*Marion* (Ohio) *Visitor*, cited in *N.Y. Observer*, Sept. 21: Buckingham's 'E. and W. States,' i. 204.
- 1841 [A resident of Washington] who entertained a strong feeling of resentment towards Mr. Wise, one of the members for Virginia, went constantly armed with loaded pistols and a long *bowie knife*, watching his opportunity to assassinate him.—Buckingham, 'America,' i. 356.
- 1849 A leathern girdle surrounds the waist, from which are suspended a *bowie* and a hunter's knife, and sometimes a brace of pistols.—E. Bryant, 'What I saw in California,' p. 366 (N.Y.).
- 1849 A speech traducing the South,—characterizing its citizens as among the most degraded in the civilized world,—charging them with being semi-barbarians, and knowing only a *bowie-knife* civilization!—Mr. Brown of Pennsylvania, House of Representatives, Jan. 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 404.
- 1860 Col. Bowie made his elegant article between a hunting-knife and a sword, with a blade ten inches in length.—*Oregon Argus*, June 9.
- 1860 The *Woodville* (Miss.) *Republican* of this year contains an account of the fight in which about forty men were engaged, Col. Bowie leading one side. It occurred at Natchez in 1828.
- 1889 The little town of Ashby in Mass., at one of its earliest war-meetings, voted "that each volunteer shall be provided with a revolver, a *bowie knife*, and a Bible, and shall also receive ten dollars in money."—J. D. Billings, 'Hard Tack and Coffee,' p. 274.

\*.\* As a consequence of a quarrel in the House of Representatives between John F. Potter and Roger A. Pryor, the latter issued a challenge, to which Mr. Potter's second thus replied, Washington, April 12, 1860: "Sir—I have to state that my principal will fight Hon. Roger A. Pryor with the common *bowie knife*, at such place, private room or open air, in this District, as we may agree upon: . . . distance four feet at commencement of engagement. Two seconds to be present to each principal. Knives of principals of equal weight and length of blade," &c.—*Richmond Enquirer*, April 17, 1860, p. 2/7. [Mr. Potter was put under bonds to keep the peace.]

**Bowie Whiskers.** See quotation.

- 1837 *The Philadelphia Ledger* insinuates that those who wear these appendages encircling the face are no better than they should be. He says *Bowie whiskers* are the signs of Bowie knives.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Nov. 16, p. 2/1.

**Bowlists.** An extinct New England sect.

- 1781 The *Bowlists*, Separatists, and Davisonians, are peculiar to the Colony. The first allow neither singing nor prayer; the second permit only the Elect to pray; and the third teach universal salvation.—Samuel Peters, 'Hist. of Connecticut,' p. 280 (Lond.).

**Bow-pin, Bow-key.** The piece that fastens an ox-yoke.

- 1857 You will not be so likely to lose your *bowpins*, chains, or axe.—F. D. Richards, Salt Lake City Tabernacle, March 22: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 47.
- 1857 The *bow-pin* has dropped out of old Bright's bow, and the bow has dropped out, and the yoke is now on old Buchanan's neck.—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Sept. 6: *id.*, v. 217.
- 1857 You that have on such a yoke had better pull out the *bow-keys*.—John Young, the same, April 8: *id.*, vi. 230.

**Bow-wood.** The wood of the Osage Orange.

- 1821 The *bow-wood*, or, as it is sometimes called, the Osage Orange, is found upon the southerly tributaries of the Arkansa, &c.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Expedition,' ii. 344 (Phila., 1823).
- 1866 Its elastic yellow wood is called *Bow-wood*, from its being used by the Indians for making bows.—'Treas. Bot.,' s.v. 'Maclura.' (N.E.D.)

**Box-alder or "Box-elder."**

- 1823 The *box elder* (*Acer negundo*).—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Expedition,' ii. 8.
- 1845 (July 3). The streams are lined with cottonwood, willow, and *boxalder*.—Joel Palmer, *Journal*, p. 30 (Cincinnati, 1847).

**Box-car.** A railway freight-car.

- 1862 I made my bed on the top of a *box-car*, and slept soundly.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xi. 299 (Richmond, 1883).
- 1884 A freight train was about to start. As it moved off, I climbed up between two *box-cars*, and the next morning was in Chicago.—*Id.*, xii. 398.
- 1910 The Railway Commission of Canada, after a hearing, has decided not to recommend the running of freight trains without brakemen on the tops of the *box cars*. There was a demand that such a recommendation be made in order to make practicable the building of overhead bridges at a lower elevation, and thus in some cases reduce the cost of putting in such bridges where needed for the abolition of level crossings.—*Indianapolis News*, April.

**Box-rent.** Rent for a pigeon-hole in a Post-office.

- 1841 [I proposed] to cure the abuse growing out of *box-rents*.—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, House of Representatives, Feb. 20: *Congressional Globe*, p. 343, Appendix.

**Bracer.** Any kind of "antifogmatic."

1829 If I take a *settler* after my coffee, a *cooler* at nine, a *bracer* at ten, a *whetter* at eleven, and two or three *stiffeners* during the forenoon, who has a right to complain?—*Savannah* (Ga.) *Mercury*, July 1.

**Brag.** Surpassingly good (Elizabethan English).

1836 The Moselle was a new *brag boat*, and had made several quick trips.—*The Jeffersonian*, May 5, p. 96: from the *Cincinnati Whig*.

1847 I filled [the kettle] up anew, thinking I would boil down a few pounds as nice as I could for *brag sugar*.—D. P. Thompson, 'Locke Amsden,' p. 14 (Boston).

1857 Isaac had once been the "*brag hand*" of the plantation.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, l. 292 (Sept.).

1904 A boy that blowed an army bugle come, and a *brag singer*.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 160 (Harpers).

**Brag, playing the game of.** Bluffing and threatening. (N.E.D., 1883.)

1845 [This] looked like *playing the game of brag*, while the negotiation was pending.—Mr. Haywood of N. Carolina in the U.S. Senate, Dec. 30: *Congressional Globe*, p. 112.

**Brainy.** Possessing brains; quick-witted.

1874 Men here are for the most part wiry, sinewy, nervous, and *brainy*.—'Sex and Education,' p. 25. (N.E.D.)

1877 A fresh, clean, *brainy*, courageous man.—*Albany Journal*, March (Bartlett).

1881 The great *brainy* man of the cabinet.—*Washington Republican*, Sept. 13.

1888 We are a *brainy* people. *Brainy* men succeed in life.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 12 (Farmer).

1904 The *brainy* men o' the future may find a way.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 11 (Harpers).

**Branch.** A stream smaller than a "creek"; a brook.

1817 Even the smaller *branches* were swollen into large creeks, sweeping away fences, &c.—*Boston Weekly Messenger*, Aug. 21.

1826 [The settlement] is intersected with numerous *spring-branches*, around which there are always found clumps of trees.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 192.

1833 He went to a *branch*, washed the blood from his body, &c. [Note.] In the south and west, the small streams are called *Branches*.—'Sketches of David Crockett,' p. 190 (N.Y.).

1835 W. Irving. (N.E.D.)

1835 He rested beside a brooklet, or, as it is called in the south, a *branch*, that trickled across the path.—W. G. Simms, 'The Yemassee,' i. 40 (N.Y.).

1843 In the early spring, *branches* are brimfull, and they hold a great deal.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 58.



**Branch**—*contd.*

- 1843 [I should like] to have the satisfaction of knocking yonder [whiskey] barrel in the head, and letting out the stuff into the *branch* here.—*Id.*, i. 126.
- 1845 I combed my hair smoothly over the *branch*, which answered me for a looking-glass.—W. G. Simms, 'The Wigwam and the Cabin,' p. 103 (Lond.).
- 1845 "How far are you going, Mr. Sikes?" I inquired. "Only jest up the *branch* a little bit."—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 165.
- 1848 Reached a dry *branch*; found a good pool of water, after following its course a mile.—C. W. Webber, 'Old Hicks the Guide,' p. 89 (N.Y.).
- 1852 A *branch* near the old field on the Fatio grant.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xl. 548 (Dec.).

**Bran-dance.** See quot. 1833.

- 1833 [A Western dance, which] derives its name from the fact that the ground is generally sprinkled with the husk of Indian meal.—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' p. 148 (N.Y.).
- 1851 There I stood, looking kin to a fool at a *bran-dance*.—'An Arkansas Doctor,' p. 52 (Phila.).

**Brandy-smash.**

- 1861 A cabin where the wayworn traveler may regale himself with a "*brandy smash*" or a "gin sling."—Letter to *Oregon Argus*, Nov. 2.

**Brash.** Foolishly impetuous.

- 1824 What a *brash* raggald! Craven dialect. (N.E.D.)
- 1837 Strannger thar's as *brash* as a new hound in a b'ar fight. (Note) *Brash* is rash, headstrong, over-valiant.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 177 (Lond.).

**Brass-wood.** See quotation.

- 1844 On the Arkansas and Red rivers an extremely valuable wood, as yet scarcely known to shipbuilders, called the bois d'arc, or, *brass wood*, grows in great quantities.—Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, House of Representatives, May 31: *Congressional Globe*, p. 500, Appendix.

**Breachy.** Apt to break through fences. Eng. dial.

- 1800 McKinney's horses were *breachy*.—Addison, 'Law Reports,' p. 258. (N.E.D.)
- 1846 [The man] had sold me a yoke of "*breachy*" oxen, notorious for their deeds throughout the settlement.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxviii. 343 (Oct.).
- 1846 Pledges air awfle *breachy* cattle,  
Thet preudent farmers don't turn out;  
Ez long's the people git their rattle,  
Wut is ther fer'm to grout about?

'Biglow Papers,' No. 7.

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**Bread.** To supply with bread.

- 1842 He always grows enough to *bread* his own people for a year at least.—Buckingham, 'Slave States,' ii. 167.
- 1857 It now takes about one thousand bushels of wheat to *bread* my family one year.—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, April 6: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 20.
- 1861 [The ladies of Richmond] *wine* them and *cake* them—and they deserve it.—J. B. Jones, 'A Rebel War Clerk's Diary,' i. 33 (Phila., 1866).
- 1879 They had enough to *bread* themselves.—Albion W. Tourgee, 'A Fool's Errand,' p. 91. (N.E.D.)

**Bread and butter, to quarrel with one's:** *i.e.* with one's means of livelihood. Is this a Jeffersonian coinage?

- 1820 If they push it to that, they will have *quarrelled with their bread and butter*.—Thomas Jefferson to Mr. Pinckney, Sept. 30.
- 1884 [They could not] afford to *quarrel with their bread and butter*.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 92. (N.E.D.)

**Bread-stuffs.** Cereal products,

- 1793 France receives favorably our *bread stuff*, rice, wood, &c.—Thomas Jefferson, 'Writings' (1859), iii. 509. (N.E.D.)
- 1793 The articles of export are *bread stuffs*.—*Id.*, 'Report on Commercial Restrictions' (Bartlett).
- 1841 No nation can be perfectly independent which does not raise its own *breadstuffs*.—Mr. White of Indiana, U.S. Senate, Jan. 19: *Congressional Globe*, p. 76, Appendix.
- 1842 When the want and desperation of the people may no longer be safely resisted, then, and then only, the *bread-stuffs* of this country are to be admitted.—Mr. Clay in the Senate, March 23: *id.*, p. 326, App.
- 1844 South of Mason and Dixon's line they had sufficient *bread-stuffs* to supply the wants of all their people.—Mr. Hammett of Mississippi, House of Repr., Feb. 6: *id.*, p. 235.
- 1848 The Secretary of the Treasury never said that the exports of *breadstuffs* this fiscal year would be larger than they were the last fiscal year.—Mr. Bayly of Va., the same, May 15: *id.*, p. 768.
- 1852 A Georgia, indeed a Southern breakfast, differs in sundry respects from ours at the North, chiefly however in the matter of *breadstuffs*.—'As Good as a Comedy,' p. 29 (Phila.).

**Break.** A blunder.

**Break.** A run of success. Rare and perhaps obsolete. [1865 is the earliest N.E.D. date for a break at billiards.]

- 1827 I am of opinion that (as we say in Virginia) we have made a "great *break*." In fact, the administration have succeeded in no one measure.—John Randolph to Dr. Brockenbrough, March 3: 'Life,' ii. 289 (1851).

**Break-bone fever.** See quot. 1888.

1862 *Breakbone*....is a cousin-german to the typhus.—*N.Y. Tribune*, May 16 (Bartlett).

1866 *Break-bone fever*. For symptoms, see Flint, 'Principia Medica' (1880), p. 1073. (N.E.D.)

1878 The old man waved his hand toward [the prairie] with the brief but expressive phrase, "*break-bone fever*."—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 27.

1888 It was "*break-bone*" fever. It is not dangerous, but the patient is introduced, in a most painful manner to every bone in his body. I used to lie and speculate how one slender woman could possibly conceal so many bones under the skin.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 142.

1888 [My husband] was very sick. *Break-bone fever* had waited to do its worst with its last victim.—*Id.*, p. 194.

**Breast-work.** See quotation.

1806 On the *breastwork* over the fireplace was the distinct impression of a bloody hand.—*Mass. Spy*, July 23.

**Brick in one's hat, to have.** To be drunk.

1848 A shocking bad un was his hat, and matted was his hair ; He wore a "*brick*" within that hat,—the charge was all complete.

And he was flanked by constables, who marched him up the street. 'Stray Subjects,' p. 61 (Phila.).

1850 A couple of prostrate animals, lying upon the crossing, with a heavy "*brick in the hat*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xv. 210.

1853 The Perfect Bird carries a *brick in his hat*, and a stone in his boot.—'Captain Priest,' p. 319.

1854 A seedy-looking old negro, with a "*brick*" in his old hat, and a "*weed*" round it.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlv. 210 (Aug.).

1857 [Lines on Travel], written by H. P. L. on the top of a hat, with a *brick in it*.—*Id.*, xlix. 129 (Feb.).

1863 On one occasion I was so unlucky as to get a *brick* side of my head, though some say it was in my hat.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xii. 215 (1884).

**Bricketty.** Irritable.

1836 You needn't go for to come for to be so *bricketty*.—*Boston Pearl*, Feb. 13.

**Brick-pond.**

1811 Two boys were drowned in a *brick-pond* in the vicinity of the city.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 9.

[The city was Philadelphia ; and a brick-pond was one where a brick-kiln had stood. See J. F. Watson's 'Annals of Philadelphia,' 1857, i. 495-6.]

**Brief.** A summary of arguments and cases filed by counsel in an appellate court; called in Pennsylvania a "paper book":—not, as in England, a memorandum of instructions for counsel.

1821 I do not think much of the legal acquirements of that man who, after being furnished with the *briefs* of counsel, and picking the brains of the bar, is able....to tack together as much law as will make a good opinion.—Corr., *The American*, New York, Aug. 22, p. 2/3.

**Brills.** See quotation. The origin of the word is obscure, but it probably came from Germany through the "Pennsylvania Dutch."

1802 Jeremiah, I suppose, had put on the six hundred dollars for spectacles....But the *Brills* had blinded his eyes, &c.—*Farmer's Register* (Greensburg, Pa.), Dec. 4.

**Britisher.** This word (see N.E.D.) is apparently of American origin. Prof. E. A. Freeman remarks that, in the contemporary records of the War of Independence, the word *English* is never contrasted with *American*, nor is it applied to the royal army. The word used is *British*. ['Impressions of the U.S.,' 1883, pp. 27–29.] And when the general committee of the city and county of New York addressed a letter (1775) to the Lord Mayor of London, they said: "That while the whole continent are ardently wishing for peace on such terms as can be acceded to by *Englishmen*, they are indefatigable in preparing for the last appeal."—[W. Gordon, 'History of the American Revolution,' ii. 5, Lond., 1788.] The term "Briton" seems to have been somewhat offensively applied to Englishmen in Connecticut.—[Samuel Peters, 'Hist. of Conn.,' pp. 307–311.]

1842 The *British* on Lake Ontario are supposed to own near twenty steamboats to our five.—Mr. Woodbury of New Hampshire in the Senate, April 14: *Congressional Globe*, p. 309, Appendix.

1843 Is that the way the *Britishers* larnt ye to treat a gal, blast your infernal pictur!—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 79.

**Broad aisle, Broad alley.** The middle passage of a meeting-house or a church.

1776 And should you offer to repent,  
You'd need more fasting days than Lent,  
More groans than haunted churchyard vallies  
And more confessions than *broad-alleys*.

John Trumbull, 'McFingal,' Canto I. [Note: an ile of the church, called in New England the *broad-alley*. Hartford ed., 1820, p. 38.]

1806 Mr. Deming was sitting in the Pew east of the *broad Alley*.—*Intelligencer* (Lancaster, Pa.), Oct. 21.

1807 [For sale:] Another pew at the right hand of the *broad aisle*, esteemed the pleasantest in said house.—*Mass. Spy*, March 25.

1809 For sale, a Pew in the *broad Isle* of the Chapel Church.—*The Repertory* (Boston), June 16



**Broad Bottoms.** The Anti-federalists.

1816 The *Broad Bottoms* are increasing in strength. The Federalists rest on their oars.—Letter from Washington: *Mass. Spy*, Jan. 10.

1819 Many *broad-bottomed* measures have been enacted.—*Id.*, Jan. 13.

[“The Broad-bottomed Administration” in England was Henry Pelham’s Coalition Ministry of 1744.]

**Broad-horn.** A kind of wild sheep.

1847 He had wandered up the [California] mountains in search of wild sheep or “*broad-horns*.”—*Knick. Mag.*, xxx. 141 (Aug.).

**Broad-horn.** An “ark” or flat-boat.

1820 The flat-bottom boat is a mere raft, with sides and a roof, but it is more roomy and convenient than the “keel,” if well built and light. An immense oar is placed on the roof on each side, near the bow (which has given these boats the nickname of “*broad horns*”) and another at the stern.—Hall’s ‘Letters from the West,’ p. 324 (Lond.).

1826 Next are the Kentucky flats, or in the vernacular phrase “*broad-horns*,” a species of ark, very nearly resembling a New England pig-stye. They are fifteen feet wide, and from forty to a hundred feet in length.—T. Flint, ‘Recollections,’ p. 13.

1829 Equally broad at the bow and the stern, it was but natural that these unique crafts went by the name of *broad-horns*.—Shields, ‘Life of Prentiss,’ p. 31 (1884).

1839–40. Washington Irving. (N.E.D.)

1840 At Wheeling I embarked on a flat-bottomed family boat, technically called a “*broad-horn*.” In this ark I floated down the Ohio.—*Knick. Mag.*, xvi. 157.

1840 England means to bring the whole celestial empire to terms, by effecting reprisals upon a few *broad-horns*, classically called junks.—*Daily Pennant* (St. Louis), Aug. 11.

1846 Boys, this ’ere life won’t do. I’ll stick to the *broad-horn* accordin’ to contract; but, once done with it, I’m off for a frolic.... I must, to live peaceably, point my rifle at something more dangerous than varmint.—Cornelius Mathews, ‘Writings,’ ii. 333.

1847 Ben was an old Mississip “roarer,”—none of your half-and-half, but just as native to the element as if he had been born in a *broad-horn*.—‘Streaks of Squatter Life,’ &c., p. 64.

1850 At the landing a large *broad-horn* was lazily sleeping, squatted on the muddy waters like a Dutch beauty over a warming-pan.—‘Odd Leaves,’ p. 58.

**Broncho.** See quotations.

1878 The mountain *bronchos* [are] selected for their skill in going up high and narrow ways. . . . Our *bronchos* carried us with ease and safety ; for one of these native horses could easily go up and down any stairs in Cincinnati.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' pp. 453-4.

1883 A ragged, tough *broncho* horse.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 428. (N.E.D.)

**Brook-drive.** See quotation.

1851 In *brook-driving* it is necessary to begin early, in order to get the logs in the current of the main river while the freshet is yet up. . . . *Brook-drives* are usually distinct parcels of logs belonging to an individual or company.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' pp. 156, 164 (N.Y.).

**Broom-corn.** The Sorghum or Millet.

1817-18 I have *Broom-Corn* and Seed-Stems enough.—W. Cobbett, 'Resid. U.S.,' p. 340 (1822). (N.E.D.)

1829 [The *arundo gigantina*] produces an abundant crop of seeds, with heads like those of *broom corn*.—*Mass. Spy*, June 3.

1860 He knows he cannot learn a Yankee farmer anything about raising beans and *broom-corn*.—Mr. Toombs of Georgia, U.S. Senate, June 13 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 2928.

1861 The Americans called them *Broom corn*.—G. Berkeley, 'Sportsman W. Prairies,' xxiv. 410. (N.E.D.)

**Brother Jonathan.** The United States collectively ; Uncle Sam. (But see quot. 1788.) N.E.D., s.v. 'Jonathan.'

1788 [A New England sea-captain, attending a college commencement, addresses his companion as "*brother Jonathan*."]—*American Museum*, iv. 184 (Aug.).

1802 I am not very much alarmed at the furious thunder bolts of *brother Jonathan* [Jonathan Trumbull ?]—'Letters to Alexander Hamilton,' p. 20 (N.Y.).

1815 An incident "highly characteristic of John Bull and *Brother Jonathan*" is told in verse.—*Mass. Spy*, May 17.

1852 *Punch* cartoon, 'John and *Jonathan*,' Aug. 28.

**Brown Betty.** A preparation of apples.

1864 [In training,] tea, coffee, pies, and "*brown Betty*" must next be sacrificed.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxix. 187.

**Brung.** Vulgar for *brought*.

1833 I wonder where he was *brung* up, to have no more manners than that comes to.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 46.

1848 Birds, and varmints, and images, what was *brung* from the North Pole.—'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 54 (Phila.).

1848 The grate sarcophagus what Commodore Elliott *brung* over from Egypt to bury General Jackson in.—*Id.*, p. 54.

1857 I never shall feel so good as this ag'in. It can't be *brung* round ag'in any way.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 161.

**Brunt.** To bear the brunt of. Rare (N.E.D.).

1848 Were such to be entitled to the same remuneration as those who had *brunted* the whole war, and been engaged in almost every battle?—Mr. Atchison of Missouri in the U.S. Senate, June 15: *Congressional Globe*, p. 843.

1859 *Brunting* the chilling fogs of a winter's afternoon, in England.—I. Taylor, 'Logic in Theology', p. 194 (N.E.D.).

**Brush.** Underwood, whether growing or cut down, O.E., examples 1330, 1440, &c., N.E.D.

1774 Heretofore the north orchard was hired to be pruned and they that did the labour had the *brush* for their pains.—*Newport Mercury*, May 30.

1801 The imprudence of a person who set on fire a quantity of *brush* near Cambridge.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 23.

1802 She fell down in the *brush*, and perished of cold.—*Id.*, May 12.

1805 The horse coursed it over very bad race ground thickly covered with trees, logs, *brush*, &c.—*Id.*, June 5.

1816 [The smoke] evidently proceeded from the blue mountains, the *brushes* and trees on which have been on fire for upwards of a week.—*Id.*, May 15.

1854 All round the wood's edge creeps the skirting blaze  
Of bushes low, as when, on cloudy days  
Ere the rain fall, the cautious farmer burns his *brush*.  
J. R. Lowell, 'An Indian Summer Reverie.'

**Brush-drag.** See quotation.

1801 They had met at Franklin, with a view of fishing in the Miami with what is called a *brush drag*.—*Mass Spy*, Oct. 21.

**Brush-whipped.** Whipped by low branches while passing through the woods.

1856 You know that, when they get a little *brush-whipped*, they are apt to become angry.—Brigham Young, April 20: 'Journal of Discourses,' iii. 324.

**Bub and sis.** Brother and sister, as applied to small children.

1835 Little "sis" has a most unrighteous reverence for her brother.—*Knick. Mag.*, vi. 299 (Oct.).

1842 [He] took the little girl in his lap, with the loving title of "sis."—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 123.

1845 'Letters from a Baby' are signed "*Bub*" in the *St. Louis Reveille*, Aug. 4, &c., and are alluded to as "*Bub's letters*."

1847 "Where are you going, *Bub*?" said one of them.—'Tom Pepper,' i. 98.

1851 "An't you joking, *bud*?" asked Polly of her boy brother.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 19.

1853 They exclaimed, "O *Bub*, what have you done? You have shot Jimmy."—*Knick. Mag.*, xli. 272 (March).

1855 Don't be a fool, *sis*; if you knew, &c.—John Brougham, 'A Basket of Chips,' p. 27 (N.Y.).



**Bub and sis—contd.**

1855 It's *sis* / I wonder what she wants. . . . Who's come, *sis* ?  
—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' pp. 278–9 (N.Y.).

1872 Many eminently genteel persons, whose manners make them at home anywhere, are in the habit of addressing all unknown children by one of the two terms, "*bub*" and "*sis*," which they consider endears them greatly to the young people.—'Poet at the Breakfast Table,' chap. i.

1872 In many of these families the nickname of "*Bud*," given to the oldest boy, and that of "*Sis*," which is the birth-right of the oldest girl, completely bury the proper Christian name.—E. Eggleston, 'The Hoosier Schoolmaster,' p. 3.

a.1890 See Appendix xx.

**Buck, v.** To rear, attempting to throw the rider off.

1860 The native horses become singularly skilled in "*bucking*."  
(For fuller quotation see CAYUSE.)—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 302.

**Buck.** A male Indian.

1860 The *bucks* became lively, and shouted, hallooed, and whooped, as if mad.—Jas. C. Adams, 'Adventures,' p. 109 (S.F.).

1878 We found a party of Pueblos on a general spree. One able-bodied "*buck*" was staggering along, with his wife after him.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 242.

**Buck nigger.** A male negro.

1842 The most prominent object was a "long nine" with a fierce looking *buck of a colored fellow* hanging to the end of it.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, April 18.

1860 He let drop from the canvas an unmistakable small, nappy-headed *buck negro*.—*Corr., Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 30, p. 2/4.

**Buck party.** A party of men only : a "stag party."

1837 It's a *buck party*, if I may use the expression,—a *buck party* entirely.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 26.

**Buck-board.** An elastic board, either supporting the seat of a vehicle, or itself used to sit on. The term is also applied to the vehicle thus furnished.

1839 [Did you] ever see a teamster riding upon a *buckboard* ? a stout, springy plank, laid upon the bare bolsters of a waggon ?—C. F. Hoffman, 'Wild Scenes,' i. 10 (Lond.).

1888 The *buckboard's* pretty narrow for three of us, but then Bessie is not very big, and I can hold her on my lap.—*N.Y. Mercury*, n.d. (Farmer).

**Bucket-shop.** See quotation. Examples 1882–6, N.E.D.

1881 A "*bucket-shop*" in New York is a low "gin-mill," or "distillery," where small quantities of spirits are dispensed in pitchers and pails (buckets). When the shops for dealing in one-share or five-share lots of stocks were opened, these dispensaries of smaller lots than could be got from regular dealers were at once named "*bucket-shops*."—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Oct.

1886 See also *Leeds Mercury*, Dec. (N.E.D.).



**Bucket-shop—contd.**

- 1888 Inspector Byrnes was seized with another spasm of indignation against the *bucket-shops* [in New York] this morning.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 12 (Farmer).
- 1908 The firm had been engaged, for some time prior to its collapse, in running a "*bucket shop*."—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Dec. 24.
- 1909 [It is] notorious that *bucket-shops* and wild cat promoters generally find clergymen and college professors their most unresisting prey.—*Id.*, April 29.
- 1910 What, by some peculiar and not wholly obvious analogy of thought, our people call a *bucket-shop*, is not only a gambling establishment pure and simple, but is in most cases a gambling establishment which pretends to be something else.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 4.

**Buckeye.** The American horse-chestnut, *Æsculus glabra*. Ohio came to be called the Buckeye State, on account of the abundance of chestnuts; and an Ohioan is colloquially termed a Buckeye.

- 1784 Here is the *buck-eye*, an exceeding soft wood, bearing a remarkable black fruit.—John Filson, 'Kentucke,' p. 23.
- 1792 [In Kentucky,] by the middle of [March] the *buck-eye* or horse-chestnut is clad in its summer livery.—G. Imlay, 'Topographical Description,' p. 128.
- 1828 She put into his arms a third boy, a fine Illinois *buckeye* too.—Timothy Flint, 'Arthur Clenning,' ii. 171.
- 1833 Dr. Drake's famous address on the *Buckeye* (Dec. 26) is to be found in Benj. Drake's 'Tales, &c.,' pp. 173–180 (Cincinnati).
- 1835 [I was born] and nurtured in the back-woods, a *buckeye* in feeling and thought.—Mr. Lytle in the House of Representatives, Feb. 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 264.
- 1835 [These boats are] manned by "real Kentucks," "*Buck eyes*," "Hooshers," and "Snorters."—Ingraham, 'The South West,' i. 105.
- 1836 The Illinoisans are called suckers, the inhabitants of Indiana Hooshiers, and those of Ohio *Buckeyes*.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Oct. 14.
- 1840 Queer carryalls did these *Buckeye* boys construct.—*Buffalo Commercial Advertiser*, Sept. 12.
- 1840 I saw nothing here at which a well corn-and-pork fed Western *Buckeye* would not douce (*sic*) his wool hat, throw off his linsey hunting-shirt, and walk right into.—Dr. Duncan of Ohio, *N.Y. Courier*, Jan. 15: Buckingham, 'E. and W. States,' i. 454 (1842).
- 1840 These horse-chestnuts were plenty in our country, and in the West it was what they called the *buck-eye*.—Mr. Jones of Virginia, House of Representatives, April 29: *Congressional Globe*, p. 367.

**Buckeye**—*contd.*

- 1840 People in the Atlantic States know as little about the high and beating heart of the Mississippi valley, as we *Buckeyes*, Corn-crackers, and Hooshiers do about Nova Zembla.—*Cincinnati Chronicle*, Aug. 26.
- 1841 Far in the stern [of the steamer at New Orleans] you see flitting about three or four gentle hoosiers, or *buckeye* fair ones.—*Arcturus*, ii. 53 (N.Y.).
- 1845 A letter on the word *Buckeye*, and on Dr. Drake's address.—*Cincinnati Miscellany*, ii. 97–100.
- 1848 There is a swarm of "suckers," "hoosiers," "*buckeyes*," "corn-crackers," and "wolverines" eternally on the *qui vive* in Wisconsin.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 79.
- 1852 In this year 'The *Buckeye* Abroad,' by S. S. Cox of Ohio, appeared.
- 1896 I kep' a *buckeye* in my pocket tell it wore a hole and fell out.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 218.

**Buck-eyes.** Worthless oil paintings, made for auctions: see *New York Evening Post*, June 7, 1881.

**Buckshot war.** This was an outbreak in Pennsylvania (1838) arising out of election disputes. (Farmer.)

- 1842 Mr. Benton believed that was the phrase used in Pennsylvania, in time of the *buckshot war*.—U.S. Senate, June 10: *Congressional Globe*, p. 609.

**Buckskin.** A Virginian.

- 1755 "These are high times, when a British general is to take counsel from a *Virginia buckskin*." Saying of General Braddock, in rejecting Washington's suggestion. See C. F. Hoffman's 'Winter in the Far West,' i. 67 (Lond., 1835).
- 1787 Cornwallis fought as long's he dought,  
And did the *buckskins* claw, man.  
Robert Burns, 'American War' (N.E.D.).
- 1824 We suspect that Capt. Tribby Clapp doodled the *Buckskins*.—*Franklin Herald*, Ap. 13: also *Mass. Spy*, Ap. 21, with *yankee-doodled* for *doodled*.
- 1825 "He, a Yankee! he's a *Buckskin*, every inch of him."—The Virginians are called *Buckskins*.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 245.
- 1837 George Washington [was] a poor colonial *Buckskin* colonel then.—R. M. Bird, 'The Hawks of Hawk-hollow,' i. 65 (London).

**Bucktail.** See quot. 1842.

- 1820 (Feb. 7.) We have no Commissioner at our village (the men fit for it being chiefly *Bucktails*). . . . Education, habit, inclination, and principle, all conspire to make me a *Bucktail*.—B. F. Butler to Jesse Hoyt: 'Lives of Butler and Hoyt,' by Wm. L. Mackenzie, pp. 26–27 (Boston, 1845).

**Bucktail—contd.**

1821 There's a barrel of porter at Tammany Hall,  
And the *bucktails* are swigging it all the night long.  
F. Halleck, 'Fanny, lxxv.

1821 Impromptu, by a B—kt—l.  
To rule in their Congress a Taylor once sought,—  
He'll suit us, the \*\*\*\*\* they all said ;  
But the *Bucktails* considered, and so the House thought  
A Barber more fit for its head.  
*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 19 : from the *National Intelligencer*.

1842 There was an order of the Tammany Society, who wore  
in their hats, on certain occasions, a portion of the tail of  
the deer....The party opposed to the administration of  
Mr. Clinton were for a long time called the *Bucktail* Party.  
....The New York *Bucktails* formed an organized oppo-  
sition.—J. D. Hammond, 'Hist. of Political Parties,'  
i. 451, 466.

1845 Walter [Bowne] was a delegate to the *bucktail* convention  
at Herkimer in 1828, which nominated Van Buren as  
governor.—'Lives of Butler and Hoyt,' p. 129.

**Bucktails.** Name applied to a Pennsylvania regiment during  
the Civil War.

1863 The Kentuckians first showed themselves, when the  
fiery *Bucktails* advanced upon them.—O. J. Victor,  
'History of the Southern Rebellion,' ii. 470.

1876 We awaited, with beating hearts, the sure and steady  
approach of the "*Pennsylvania Bucktails*."—'Southern  
Hist. Soc. Papers,' i. 436 (Richmond, Va.).

**Buckwheat cakes.** Thin soft cakes made of buckwheat flour,  
and usually eaten with molasses.

1775 It is well known that in Philadelphia *buckwheat cakes* are  
one of the articles of that city for their breakfasts.—  
B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 125.

1788 His hot roll and buttered *buckwheat cake* are placed by his  
chocolate, that is milled up with a froth like a whipt  
syllabub ; that's something like living.—*American Museum*,  
iv. 565.

1797 [We had] tea and coffee and a boiled chicken for our  
breakfast, attended with *buck-wheat cakes*, which are  
common in this part of the country [Ohio].—Fra. Baily,  
F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 201 (Lond., 1856).

1805 Mrs. G. baked some *buckwheat cakes* for breakfast.—*Mass.*  
*Spy*, March 6.

1829 The classical coteries [at Princeton] where they ate *buck-*  
*wheat cakes*.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Swallow Barn,' p. 59  
(N.Y., 1851).

1835 *Buckwheat cakes* can not be made good any where but in  
Philadelphia.—'Letters on the Virginia Springs,' p. 12  
(Phila.).

1859 Even our Quakers are willing to drink cheap damnation  
in their coffee-cups, and eat it on their *buckwheats*.—S. S.  
Cox, 'Eight Years in Congress,' p. 114 (1865).

**Buff** To swagger. **Buffer.** A swaggerer. Obs.

1787 Good news, brother dealers in metre and prose.  
The world has turned *buffer*, and coming to blows.

*Maryland Journal*, Dec. 21 : from the *American Museum*.

1799 If we were as fond of fighting France as ever *buffing* Jackson, or big Ben, or the tinker of Cornwall were of entering the lists.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 23.

**Buffalo.** A buffalo-robe.

1840 Dont' forgit to Put in as many Seats as you can, and All your *Buffaloes*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xv. 326 (April).

1842 It's my vote that we jist make up a good big shakedown with *buffaloes* and cushions.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 118.

1852 A tale is told of two Englishmen in Boston, who ordered a sleigh. "Will you have one *buffalo* or two?" asked the hostler. "Why, we'll only have one the first time, as we're not used to driving them."—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 14 n. (N.Y.).

1853 [He covered his horse] with one of his two ample "*buffaloes*," as the cured skins of the American bison are commonly called.—'Turnover: a Tale of New Hampshire,' p. 12 (Boston).

1855 I asked them for a chamber,  
And a place to lay my head :  
They spread for me a *buffalo*  
Within a floorless shed.

*Herald of Freedom* (Lawrence, Kansas), Oct. 13.

1857 I established myself in the back seat, and seized upon a double allowance of *buffaloes*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 67 (Jan.).

1862 [He] tramps homeward in disgusted dignity, his arms loaded down with *buffaloes* and cushions.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxvii. 208.

**Buffalo-beat.** See quotation.

1805 There are found open cleared spots on the summit of hills, called "*Buffaloe beats*," because supposed to be occasioned by the resort of those animals thither in fly time.—Thaddeus M. Harris, 'State of Ohio,' p. 179.

**Buffalo-berry.** The fruit of *Shepherdia argentea*.

1805 Scions of a newly discovered berry, called the *buffaloe berry*.—*Mass. Spy*, July 17.

1856 The felicity of tasting real *Buffalo-berries*.—*Gard. Chron.*, p. 174. (N.E.D.)

**Buffalo-chips.** See quot. 1846.

1846 Our fuel for cooking is what is called "*buffalo-chips*," which is the deposit of manure made by the herds of buffalo that have roamed over this region in years past, and has become perfectly dry, burning with a lively blaze, and producing a strong heat.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I Saw in California,' p. 63 (Lond., 1849).

**Buffalo-chips—contd.**

- 1859 *Buffalo-chips* for fuel.—Marcy, 'Prairie Travels,' p. 268. (N.E.D.)
- 1870 We took to the plains and gathered the fuel known to plainsmen as "*bull chips*," which made a very hot fire when used in sufficient quantities.—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 221 (Phila., &c.).
- 1888 A fire was made of *buffalo-chips*, of which a great quantity was lying around.—*Forest and Stream*, March 15 (Farmer).
- 1893 [It was necessary] to gather and use *buffalo chips* [for fuel].—Alex. Majors, 'Seventy Years on the Frontier,' p. 172.

**Buffalo-fish.** See quot. 1805.

- 1784 The fish common to the waters of the Ohio are the *buffalo-fish*, of a large size, and the cat-fish.—John Filson, 'Kentucke,' p. 26.
- 1792 The *buffalo fish* is in size from four to eight lb.—G. Imlay, 'Topographical Descr. [Ky.],' p. 155.
- 1805 *Buffalo-Fish*, so called by the Indians and Europeans on account of its being heard sometimes to bellow in the water.—Thaddeus M. Harris, 'State of Ohio,' p. 116.
- 1861 These rivers are very fine for *buffalo fish* to live in.—W. H. Russell in *The Times*, July 10. (N.E.D.)

**Buffalo grass.** The *Sesleria dactyloides*.

- 1893 The grass called *buffalo grass* did not grow more than one and one half to two inches high, but grew almost as thick in many places as the hair on a dog's back.—Alex. Majors, 'Seventy Years on the Frontier,' p. 33.

**Buffalo platform.** See PLATFORM, 1850.

- 1850 The high-priests of nullification, the school of the resolutions of '98, the worshippers upon the *Buffalo platform*, and the disciples of the Nashville Convention, have set up a simultaneous howl.—Mr. Ashmun of Mass., House of Repr., Aug. 14: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1121, Appendix.

**Buffalo street.** See quotation, 1837.

- 1837 You've as cl'ar and broad a trace before you as man and beast could make—a *buffalo-street* through the canes. (Note.) The bison-paths, when very wide, were often thus called.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 42 (Lond.).
- 1846 From the forks of Clark's river it is about ninety miles to the North Pass, along a well-beaten *buffalo road*.—Mr. Benton of Missouri in the U.S. Senate, May 28: *Congressional Globe*, p. 916.
- 1850 The wild animals....are the first engineers to lay out a road in a new country; the Indians follow them, and hence a *buffalo road* becomes a war-path.—The same, Dec. 16: *id.*, p. 57.

**Bug.** Any insect. O.E. [See also big bug, horn-bug, June-bug, lady-bug, lightning-bug, potato-bug, rose-bug, straddle-bug, tumble-bug.]

1642 Gods rare workmanship in the Ant, the poorest *bugge* that creeps.—Rogers, 'Naaman the Syrian,' p. 74. (N.E.D.)

1672 There is a certain kind of *Bug* like a Beetle, but of a glistering brass colour, with four strong Tinsel Wings.—John Josselyn, 'New-Englands Rarities,' p. 39.

1771 Word used in modern English sense.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, July 25.

1787 That pernicious insect commonly known by the appellation of the *Hessian bug*.—*American Museum*, ii. 459 (Nov.).

1793 No harvest came for Peleg,—the *bugs* had eaten, it, four years in advance.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 8.

1801 A species of *Bug* has been discovered in the State of Connecticut, resembling in appearance and effect the imported Cantharides.—Lancaster (Pa.) *Intelligencer*, Aug. 12.

1803 The means of destroying the canker and *bug* worms.—*Mass. Spy*, June 29.

1804 The cause of the evil [among the South Carolina pine-trees] has been found to proceed from a small black winged *bug*, resembling the weavel, but something larger.—*Id.*, Feb. 8.

1806           In wonder now I see thee tug,  
                  With strength of nose, and head sublime,  
                  Striving in vain, laborious *bug*,  
                  To roll thy ball as fast as Time.

Verses to the Scarabæus, *The Repertory* (Boston), Sept. 2.

1815 A traveller, relating what he had seen, mentioned a *bug* that was as large as a sheep. Indeed, said a bystander, and isn't it called a *hum-bug*?—*Mass Spy*, Aug. 2.

1820 Noises in the air, supposed to be the flying of *bugs* and beetles.—John Trumbull's 'Works,' p. 66 (Hartford).

1822 That which produces the *bugs* and skippers in the meat, after it has been smoked.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 16.

1835 I could not help thinking what pleasure folks could take in sticking up whole rows of little *bugs*, and such like varmint.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 44 (Phila.).

1838 Thus was the worthy naturalist relieved, not however without the loss of his box of *bugs*.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 26 (N.Y.).

1839 If farmers would scald their seed peas before sowing them, they would not be troubled by the *bug*.—*Farmer's Monthly Visitor*, i. 68 (Concord, N.H.).

1843 A rural vicinity, where every boor and ploughman is classed....like so many *bugs* and beetles in the Linnæan system.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 136.

1843 The ladies pursued their walk gaily, sometimes shrinking suddenly back at the sight of a *bug*.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xix. 124 (Feb.).

**Bug—contd.**

- 1848 To examine Mary's geological specimens, and Tilly's cases of *bugs* and butterflies.—W. E. Burton's 'Waggeries,' p. 28.
- 1857 The buckwheat cakes sometimes had insects (known as Croton-water *bugs*) in them.—T. B. Gunn, 'New York Boarding Houses,' p. 53.
- 1867 As these bring home, from every walk they take,  
 Their hat-crowns stuck with *bugs* of curious make,  
 So he filled all the lining of his head  
 With characters impaled and ticketed.  
 J. R. Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story.'

**Bug.** A trick, a hoax. Rare.

- 1848 They say the people of Stunnington in Connecticut live on fish so much that they smell like whale oil, and have scales on their backs. This may be a *bug* what they put on me, but one thing I do know, &c.—'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 126 (Phila.).

**Bug horns.** Horns curving inward. Obs.

- 1642 [The moon] 'gins swell, and waxen *bug with horn*.—H. More. (N.E.D.)
- 1766 Strayed away, a small dark brown Cow, with *bug Horns*.—*Mass. Gazette*, Oct. 23.
- 1769 Strayed, a Heifer, brown and white, with short *bug Horns*.—*Id.*, Nov. 23.
- 1809 A middling sized red cow, with *bug horns*.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, Sept. 27.
- 1819 A stray Cow, of a deep red colour, having "*bug horns*" (so called).—*Id.*, June 2.
- 1821 Strayed, a pair of three-year-old Steers,—one of brown colour, with *bug horns*,—and the other with large broad horns.—*Id.*, Aug. 22.
- 1823 Came into the enclosure of the subscriber....a Red Cow, with a white face and *bug horned*.—*Somerset (Me.) Journal*, Nov. 28, p. 1/1 (Advt.).

**Bugaboo.** A terrific vision.

- 1740 Hobgoblins, Rawheads, and Bloodybones, *Buggybows*.—'Christmas Entertainment,' ii. (N.E.D., the next citation being from E. A. Poe, 1843).
- 1800 *Buggaboo* Tracy scowled. Gunn stared and looked wise.—*The Aurora* (Phila.), June 4.
- 1806 Advt., signed "James Akin, Author of the 'Prairie Dog,' 'Infuriated Despondency,' '*Bug-a-boo*,' &c.—*The Repository* (Boston), Nov. 21.
- 1812 Thus is ended, says the *Canandaigua Repository*, the bullying of this swaggering *bugaboo*.—*Boston - Gazette*, Dec. 21.
- 1812 As to the *bugaboo* Smythe, on Friday last he was at his quarters.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 23.



**Bugaboo**—*contd.*

- 1842 "*Bugaboo Hall*," the title of "a minor romance," concerning a haunted house—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, May 18.
- 1843 Diseased potatoes form the last *bugaboo* story for the newspapers.—*Id.*, Nov. 17.
- a.1848 All ye who see *bugaboos* in the dim distance, and would cut 'cross lots to eternity.—Dow, jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 70.
- 1852 Why do you make such a *bugaboo* of nothing?—James Weir, 'Simon Kenton,' p. 29 (*Phila.*).
- 1855 [The principle of opposition to foreigners] is a *bugaboo* that commenced in the city of New York.—Mr. Kelly of N.Y., House of Repr., Dec. 19: *Cong. Globe*, p. 54.
- 1860 John Hickman is by no means the *bug-a-boo* to the Southerners you would suppose.—*Oregon Argus*, June 9.

**Buggy.** A light carriage. See *Notes and Queries*, 5 S. v. 445; 9 S. vii. 148. Obs. in England.

- 1773 *Gentleman's Magazine*. (N.E.D.)
- 1778 *Annual Register*. (N.E.D.)
- 1827 We are to make a return of the greatest number of horses, *buggies*, ponies, dogs, cats, bullfinches, and canary birds, &c., and to be taxed accordingly.—Sydney Smith, *Edin. Review*, March.
- 1840 "Tom Corwin's *buggy*" brought in over 200 persons from one neighbourhood, drawn by 32 yoke of oxen. [This was at a political rally].—*Niles's Register*, Sept. 12: lix. 21/3.
- 1857 Tom, get my *buggy* immediately. — D. H. Strother, 'Virginia Illustrated,' p. 253 (N.Y.).

**Bulld.** To construct anything

- 1852 These cravats are *built* on the same principle.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 125 (N.Y.).

**Bulge.** An advantage, particularly in a fight.

- 1860 It is in this respect [of field products] that the South has "*the bulge*" on the North, and will always have it.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 30, p. 4/5.
- 1867 Time was afforded Brasher to form his men, and thus *get the bulge* on Montjoy.—J. M. Crawford, 'Mosby and his Men,' p. 298 (N.Y.).
- 1870 (?) You had the biggest *bulge* on him, only neither of you knew it.—F. Bret Harte, 'Trent's Trust.'
- 1888 Soldiers used to say that such shooting as Andrews did *got the bulge* on every body.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 689.

**Bulk-head.** The covering of a cellar-way (New England).

- 1865 An old woman came out and fastened the door of her *bulk-head*.—Thoreau, 'Cape Cod,' p. 73. (N.E.D.)



**Bull-frog**—*contd.*

- 1801           Should Retta poor Phelim forsake,  
                   The world into mourning would go,  
                   And *bullfrogs* would grunt at his fate,  
                   And mud turtles pine at his woe.  
*Spirit of the Farmers' Museum*, p. 77: from the *Mass. Spy*.
- 1803           Such noise as once was heard at Windham town,  
                   When *bull-frogs* in their march put all to flight,  
                   And threaten'd revolution to the world.  
   *The Balance*, Aug. 30 (p. 280).
- 1804   The highest price will be given for well-grown fresh *Bull Frogs*.—*Id.*, June 5: from a Maryland paper.
- 1806   As night advanced, the noise of vermin, reptiles, and insects was so great, particularly the clamour of the great *bull-frog*, that I felt very little disposition to lie down.—Thomas Ashe, 'Travels in America,' ii. 220 (Lond., 1808).
- 1807   [Mr. Jefferson] secured the lead Mines, the Salt Mountain, . . . Huge Tadpoles, Dogs Prairie, and horned *Bull Frogs*.—*The Repertory* (Boston), Feb. 8.
- 1827   The *bull-frog* is numerous everywhere; a stranger would imagine that he often strained his lungs, to imitate the voice of the lordly alligator.—J. L. Williams, 'West Florida,' p. 29 (Phila.).
- 1833   There's a powerful chance of the biggest *bull-frogs* you ever see, down in the slash yonder.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 152 (Phila.).
- 1846           'Tis wondrous fine, I calculate,  
                   To sit upon an oak  
                   And hear ten thousand *bull-frogs* join  
                   In one almighty croak.  
   *Yale Lit. Mag.*, xi. 226.
- 1856           And the melancholy *bull-frog*,  
                   Brek-e-kex-co-ax, the *bull-frog*,  
                   On the river's shiney margin,  
                   Echoed, "Good-bye, Milgenwater."  
   *Id.*, xxi. 233.

**Bull-snake.** See quotations.

- 1791   The pine or *bull snake* is very large, and inoffensive with respect to mankind, but devour squirrels, birds, rabbits, and every other creature they can take as food.—W. Bartram, 'Travels,' p. 276.
- 1878   The "*bull-snake*" [is] an immense thing four or five feet in length, which gets its name from its blunt head and thick, clumsy body.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 133.

**Bull-whacker.** A long whip: hence the teamster who wields it.

- 1859   Gentile and Mormon, *bull whacker* and Pike's Peaker, all seem to mingle freely.—*Alta California*, Aug. 17.

**Bully-boat.** See quot. 1844.

1844 I have been snagged once, and on fire twice; but a two days' race with *bully-boats* combines every sort of pleasing excitement. It were well to inform you that a *bully-boat* means a boat that beats everything on those [Mississippi] waters, and performs her trips in an astonishingly short space of time.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 181.

1846 Our "*bully*" boat sped away like a bird.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 126.

**Bullyrag.** To scold with threats; to defy.

1807 You vainly thought to *ballarag* us with your fine squadron off Cape Lagos.—Warton, 'Misc.,' p. 128. (N.E.D.)

1845 You have been in the habit of *bullyragging* those that are in arrears.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' i. 163.

a.1870 I never heard of his fightin' anybody but his own kind, and when he was *bullyragged*.—F. Bret Harte, 'The Convalescence of Jack Hamlin.'

**Bummer.** A worthless, lazy fellow. The word acquired a special meaning in the Civil War. See quot. 1865-66.

1856 'Pon my word I'm no *bummer*. I never ate a lunch in all my life without taking a square drink.—*S. F. Call*, Dec. 25.

1857 The irreclaimable town "*bummer*" figured in the police court.—*Id.*, April 28

1860 Another great sham connected with our social life is that of spreeing or "*bumming*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxv. 398.

1862 A great majority of the *bummers*, who so long infested this city, have either left or gone to work.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, May 10.

1862 There are different kinds and qualities of the *bummer* species. Some are whiskey *bummers*, some are boarding-house *bummers*, and some are *bummers* on general principles.—*Id.*, May 24.

1865 You have doubtless heard of Sherman's "*bummers*".... These were pure silver *bummers*, plated-ware *bummers*, jewelry *bummers*, women's clothing *bummers*, provision *bummers*, in fine a *bummer* or *bummers* for every kind of stealable thing. No *bummer* of one specialty interfered with the stealables of another.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xii. 428 (Richmond, 1884).

1866 The origin of this nickname is unknown. No English Dictionary contains it; only the *bummers* themselves know exactly what it means, except perhaps inferentially. ....If it be asked what a *bummer* is, the reply is easy. He is a raider on his own account, a man who temporarily deserts his place in the ranks, while the army is on the march, and starts out upon an independent foraging expedition....A *bummer* may once have been a foot-soldier, but I never saw one who was not mounted on some sort of an animal.—Nichols's 'Story of the Great March,' pp. 240-242.

[Opposite p. 244 is a picture of a *bummer* on horseback. Nichols's use of the term is quite obsolete.]

**Bull-whacker—contd.**

- 1861 Five yoke of oxen is the motive power for each wagon [going to Pike's Peak], and these are urged forward by a "*bull-whacker*" armed with a whip carrying a lash from six to twelve feet in length.—*Knicker. Mag.*, lviii. 117 (Aug.).
- 1878 Numbers of "*bull-whackers*," sunburnt, healthy, and jolly, carrying with them their murderous whips.—J. H. Beadle, '*Western Wilds*,' p. 407.
- 1888 I employed old-time *bull-whackers*, who had done nothing but scare about buffaloes all their life.—S. F. *Examiner*, Feb. 23 (Farmer).
- 1888 There is no sound like the snap of the lash of a "*bull-whacker*."—Mrs. Custer, '*Tenting on the Plains*,' p. 229.
- 1890 We employed a Pike county *bull-whacker*, who agreed to deliver us and our effects in Hangtown.—Haskins, '*Argonauts of California*,' p. 52.

**Bully.** Excellent of its kind. "What sayst thou, bully Bottom?" ('*Mid. Night's Dream*,' iii. 1). An American collegian is said to have derived the word *restaurant* from *res*, a thing, and *taurus*, a bull, the restaurant being "a bully thing."

- 1855 The cook gave us a *bully* dinner.—Wm. Carleton, '*Willy Reilly*' (Bartlett).
- 1855 The witness can't remember as he hilt any hand at all, with *bully* hands out, and him the best player in the crowd.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, July 28.
- 1860 "New York is a big place, I expect." "Yes, very big." "Big as New Orleans, is it?" "Yes, much bigger." "Bigger'n New Orleans! It must be a *bully* city."—F. L. Olmsted, '*Journey in the Back Country*,' p. 171 (Lond.).
- 1888 All the boys done *bully*, but Corporal Johnson he flinked. The boys don't think [he] ought to have corporal's straps.—Mrs. Custer, '*Tenting on the Plains*,' p. 680.

**Bully for you! Well done!**

- 1861 "*Bully for you!*" alternated with benedictions, in the proportion of two "*bullies*" to one blessing.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 745 (June).
- 1864 The freckles have vanished, and *bully for you*.—*Daily Telegraph*, Nov. 18. (N.E.D.)
- 1865 "Bully" for Grant and for Foote!  
E'en if the voice must tremble,—  
And "*bully*" for all who helped 'em to do't!  
*Bully* for Porter and Stemple!  
For Paulding and for Walke,  
For Phelps, for Gwin, and for Shirk!—  
But what's the use to talk?  
They were all of them up to the work.  
*Bully* for each brave tub  
That bore the Union Blue! . . .  
'The Rhyme of the Master's Mate,' *Atlantic Monthly*, Nov.

**Bully-boat.** See quot. 1844.

1844 I have been snagged once, and on fire twice ; but a two days' race with *bully-boats* combines every sort of pleasing excitement. It were well to inform you that a *bully-boat* means a boat that beats everything on those [Mississippi] waters, and performs her trips in an astonishingly short space of time.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 181.

1846 Our "*bully*" boat sped away like a bird.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 126.

**Bullyrag.** To scold with threats ; to defy.

1807 You vainly thought to *ballarag* us with your fine squadron off Cape Lagos.—Warton, 'Misc.,' p. 128. (N.E.D.)

1845 You have been in the habit of *bullyragging* those that are in arrears.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' i. 163.

a.1870 I never heard of his fightin' anybody but his own kind, and when he was *bullyragged*.—F. Bret Harte, 'The Convalescence of Jack Hamlin.'

**Bummer.** A worthless, lazy fellow. The word acquired a special meaning in the Civil War. See quot. 1865–66.

1856 'Pon my word I'm no *bummer*. I never ate a lunch in all my life without taking a square drink.—*S. F. Call*, Dec. 25.

1857 The irreclaimable town "*bummer*" figured in the police court.—*Id.*, April 28

1860 Another great sham connected with our social life is that of spreeing or "*bumming*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxv. 398.

1862 A great majority of the *bummers*, who so long infested this city, have either left or gone to work.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, May 10.

1862 There are different kinds and qualities of the *bummer* species. Some are whiskey *bummers*, some are boarding-house *bummers*, and some are *bummers* on general principles.—*Id.*, May 24.

1865 You have doubtless heard of Sherman's "*bummers*" . . . . These were pure silver *bummers*, plated-ware *bummers*, jewelry *bummers*, women's clothing *bummers*, provision *bummers*, in fine a *bummer* or *bummers* for every kind of stealable thing. No *bummer* of one specialty interfered with the stealables of another.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xii. 428 (Richmond, 1884).

1866 The origin of this nickname is unknown. No English Dictionary contains it ; only the *bummers* themselves know exactly what it means, except perhaps inferentially. . . . If it be asked what a *bummer* is, the reply is easy. He is a raider on his own account, a man who temporarily deserts his place in the ranks, while the army is on the march, and starts out upon an independent foraging expedition. . . . A *bummer* may once have been a foot-soldier, but I never saw one who was not mounted on some sort of an animal.—Nichols's 'Story of the Great March,' pp. 240–242.

[Opposite p. 244 is a picture of a *bummer* on horseback. Nichols's use of the term is quite obsolete.]

**Bummer**—*contd.*

- 1874 So long as substantial citizens choose to leave politics to shoulder-hitters, rum-sellers, and *bummers* of every degree, they will be robbed.—*N.Y. Commercial Advertiser*, Sept. 9 (Bartlett).
- 1876 The defaulters, the renegades, the *bummers* and cheats, are the boys who enjoyed fat places and salaries.—‘*Southern Hist. Soc. Papers*,’ i. 87.
- 1885 [I had] the nicest farm in all these parts, afore your *bummers* come along.—Admiral Porter, ‘*Incidents of the Civil War*,’ p. 184.

**Bunch.** A herd of followers (1622–1832, N.E.D.).

**Bunch-grass.** *Festuca scabrella*: described in the quotations.

- 1846 The plain is covered with wild sage, with a few occasional blades of dead *bunch-grass* between the sage hillocks.—E. Bryant, ‘*What I Saw in California*,’ p. 113.
- 1855 The “*bunch grass*” takes its name from the form in which it grows, which is in bunches—different from the short grass called “buffalo.”—Mr. Benton of Missouri, House of Repr., Jan. 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 77, Appendix.
- 1860 They get into the “*bunch-grass*” country before the frost comes, and you know *bunch-grass* is good all the year round.—H. C. Kimball, *Tabernacle*, Oct. 6: ‘*Journal of Discourses*,’ viii. 252.
- 1873 The grass on the plains [in northern Colorado] consists of two species of *bunch grass*, the common yellow and the white-topped varieties. The last is by far the richest, the top containing a small black seed which, with its husk, is considered as nutritious as grain.—J. H. Beadle, ‘*The Undeveloped West*,’ p. 656 (Phila., &c.).
- 1878 The *bunch-grass* is a pale green, or quite gray and yellow —J. H. Beadle, ‘*Western Wilds*,’ p. 124.

**Bunco, Bunko.** To swindle.

- 1887 He was accused of having *bunkoed* Ex-County-Commissioner Stephens out of 2,300 dols. in Xenia recently. — *Cincinnati Enquirer*, Aug. 20 (Farmer).

**Buncombe, Bunkum, Bunkumite.** Buncombe County, North Carolina, was named in 1791 after Col. Edward Buncombe. The derivative use of the word, signifying clap-trap, had this origin: A member of Congress from that district addressed the House in so prosy and lengthy a manner, that many members left the hall. He then told those who remained, that they might go too; he should speak for some time yet, and “he was only talking for Buncombe,” to please his constituents.—See John H. Wheeler, ‘*Historical Sketches of N. Carolina*,’ ii. 52 (Philadelphia, 1851).

**Buncombe, Bunkum, Bunkumite—contd.**

- 1827 "Talking to *Bunkum*!" This is an old and common saying at Washington, when a member of congress is making one of those hum-drum and unlistened to "long talks" which have lately become so fashionable. . . . This is cantly called "talking to Bunkum": an "honorable gentleman," long ago, having said that he was not speaking to the house, but to the people of a certain county in his district, which, in local phrase, he called "Bunkum."—*Niles's Register*, Sept. 27: xxxv. 66/2.
- 1841 We spend the whole of our time in speech-making to *Buncomb*, instead of practical action for the good of the country.—Mr. Underwood of Ky., House of Repr., Feb. 20: *Congressional Globe*, p. 340, Appendix.
- 1843 Mr. Weller of Ohio thought the question had been sufficiently debated, for nearly all the speeches had been made for *Buncombe*.—The same, Dec. 11: *id.*, p. 43.
- 1844 Mr. Clingman of N. Carolina said that Mr. Duncan had avowed that his speech was intended for *Buncombe*. He (Mr. C.) happened to live in Buncombe, and. . . if [Mr. D.] intended such speeches as he had made for the veritable Buncombe, the people there were too hard-headed to swallow them.—The same, March 7: *id.*, p. 356.
- 1846 Mr. Tibbatts of Ky. said he had no reference to *Buncombe*, no popular favor to court in the views which he expressed.—The same, May 19: *id.*, p. 840.
- 1847 Look at the amount of *Buncombizing* which was done in this Hall upon the land bounty bill, and upon the resolution of thanks to General Taylor, and his officers and men, for their successful effort in storming Monterey.—Mr. Brodhead of Pa., the same, Feb. 9: *id.*, p. 328, App.
- 1847 A great deal of "*bunkum*," sprinkled with a high seasoning of political jugglery.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' &c., p. 17 (Phila.).
- 1848 We would have less sound and more sense, less for *Buncum* and more for the country.—'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 84 (Phila.).
- 1850 Conventions, rights of independence, caucuses, agitation, and whatever else may be implied by the American expression, "*bunkum*."—*The Times*, Jan. 24. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 It looks as if one part of the speech was addressed to a Whig *Buncombe*, and another part to a Democratic *Buncombe*; one to the eastern *Buncombe*, and the other to the western *Buncombe*.—Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina, House of Repr., March 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 342, Appendix.
- 1850 Talking for Bunkum. Three hours has got to be a very common thing.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxv. 348 (April).
- 1854 Bushey spreads it on rather thick, "all for *Buncome*," of course.—*Oregonian*, Jan. 21.  
[The allusion is to Asahel Bush of Salem, Oregon, who became a banker and a man of wealth.]

**Buncombe, Bunkum, Bunkumite—contd.**

- 1854 My clients are *bunkum* yet,—allers stands up to the rack at the end of an execution.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 157. [Exceptional use of the word.]
- 1854 The first of these measures of weighty import is *buncombe*, the second of still greater import is *buncombe*, and the third of mighty magnitude is *buncombe*.—*Oregonian*, Dec. 23.
- 1855 You will learn that such humbug *buncombe* appeals will not tell in this territory.—*Olympia* (W. T.) *Review*, June 8.
- 1857 Congresses of crows, clamorous as if talking to *buncombe*.—S. G. Goodrich, 'Reminiscences,' i. 101 (Bartlett).
- 1858 [The attorney] was making a boisterous, thundering, *Buncome* speech, in an uncertain cause.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, li. 538 (May).
- 1858 All *Buncome* orators want to be "right on the record."—*Id.*, li. 539.
- 1861 A poor, shoeless, shirtless, and hatless *Bunkumite*.—*Oregon Argus*, Feb. 16.
- 1861 We have been so much accustomed to the *Buncombe* style of oratory, that we are apt to allow a great latitude in such matters.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 237 (Feb.).
- 1862 An' yit enj'y th' exclusive right to one another's *Buncombe*.—'Biglow Papers,' 2nd S., No. 2.
- 1866 It's good *Buncombe* to have a scape-goat.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 69.
- 1909 [Senator Thurston's extravagant laudation of Secretary Alger] is sheer *buncombe*, of course.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Jan. 25.

**Bundling.** Passing the night together, with clothes on. An old and obsolete custom.

- 1775 Bundling is described under the name of *tarrying*, by Andrew Burnaby, 'Travels in N. America,' pp. 83-84.
- 1781 Notwithstanding the modesty of the females is such that it would be accounted the greatest rudeness to speak before a lady of a garter, knee, or leg, yet it is thought but a piece of civility to ask her to BUNDLE: a custom as old as the first settlement in 1634.—Samuel Peters, 'History of Connecticut,' p. 325. [The author does not consider bundling more immoral than sitting together on a "sopha": pp. 327-9.]
- 1801 Thomas Paine has called [the book of Ruth] an idle, *bundling* story.—'The Port Folio,' i. 308 (Phila.).
- 1801 [She observed] that it was the fashion in that town to *b-ndle*.—*Spirit of the Farmer's Museum*, p. 194.
- 1809 He swore that he would have nothing more to do with such a squatting, *bundling*, guessing, questioning, swapping, pumkin-eating, molasses-daubing, shingle-splitting, cider-watering, horse-jockeying, notion-peddling crew.—W. Irving, 'Hist. of New York,' i. 120 (1812).
- 1809 The custom to which I allude was vulgarly known by the name of *bundling*.—*Id.*, i. 181 (1812).



**Bundling**—*contd.*

- 1809 He still remembered the frolicking and dancing and *bundling*, and other disports of the east country.—*Id.*, ii. 180.
- 1825 The very "*bundling*" of the Dutch settlers; that mischievous, wicked habit, which is now spreading through the frontier settlements.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 118.
- 1825 In one of those industrious Yankee States,  
So fam'd for *bundling*, onions, notions, codfish,  
For lean lank-sided schoolmasters, and oddfish,  
For wooden nutmegs, trenchers, pewter plates,  
There dwelt a maiden lady.  
*New-Harmony Gazette*, Nov. 30, p. 80/1.
- 1825 I fully believed that [they] were a *bundling*, gouging, spitting, impious race, without either morals, literature, religion, or refinement.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 2 (Lond.).
- 1828 See a paper on *Bundling* in *The Yankee* (Portland, Maine), p. 258.
- 1844 His friends suggested that this was like what was called *bundling* in New Jersey. We don't (said he) want to have any *bundling* with the States.—Mr. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, House of Representatives, Feb. 14: *Congressional Globe*, p. 277.

**Bungtown coppers.** Worthless copper coins.

- 1840 [He took] a five cent piece and two *bungtown coppers* out of the till.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xv. 385 (May).
- 1850 These flowers wouldn't fetch a *Bungtown copper*.—Sylvester Judd, 'Margaret,' p. 19 (Bartlett).
- 1853 "Beware of crossed sixpences, smooth shillings, and what are called *Bungtown coppers*," said Cheatum.—*Daily Morning Herald* (St. Louis), March 10.
- 1853 What is the currency of the U.S.?—Coppers, bogus, *Bungtown cents*, pennies, fips, fourpence 'a' pennies, levies, ninepences, Spanish quarters, pistareens, and shinplasters.—*Oregonian*, Aug. 13.

**Bunt.** A push with the head. Wilts (1825) and Sussex (1875) dialects: N.E.D.

- 1767 [The black Ram] will sometimes come behind a fine great Weather, or upon the side of him, and give him a paultry *Bunt* at unawares.—*Boston Gazette*, Jan. 19.

**Buntline, Buntlinism.** The original "Ned Buntline" of politics was Mr. E. Z. C. Judson of N.Y., who organized the "Know-nothings" in 1853.—Mr. Chas. L. Norton, 'Mag. Am. Hist.,' xiii. 202 (1885).

- 1855 In these days of *Buntlinism*, it is a common thing to hear men boast that some fellow has "seen Sam," or is "Right on the Goose."—*Olympia* (W. T.) *Pioneer*, July 6.
- 1855 The *Ned Buntlines* of the organization.... Horace Greeley is to be the Lord high priest, and *Ned Buntline* the confessor [of the New York fusionists].—*Id.*, Sept. 7.



**Bureau.** A chest of drawers: a dressing-table with drawers.  
The word came in gradually, as the earlier quotations show.

- 1742 Miss Nancy will find it in the inner Till of my *Bureau*.—Richardson, 'Pamela,' iv. 79. (N.E.D.)
- 1764 A "*Chest of Draws*" is advertised with other things at Public Vendue.—*Boston Evening Post*, Jan. 30.
- 1772 *Chests of Draws, Bureaus, Desks, &c.*, for sale.—*Mass. Spy*, April 23.
- 1800 Auction sale of "*Bureaus, Dukes, sophas, windsor chairs, &c.*," advertised in *The Aurora* (Phila.), Aug. 30.
- 1804 A *chest of drawers, &c.*, advertised.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, March 3.
- 1805 A sale of beds and bedding, *bureaus, tables, &c.*—*Id.*, March 29.
- 1806 In the rage of intoxication, they danced upon *Tables, Bureaus, &c.*, Hallooing and cursing Democracy.—*Intelligencer* (Lancaster, Pa.), Dec. 30.
- 1818 The floor fell in an oblique direction, which had the effect of piling [the company] in heaps, together with tables, chairs, *bureaus*, crockery, &c.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 11.
- 1819 Look in the *bureaus* and trunks of modern men of fashion, and see the number of coats, waistcoats, pantaloons, &c.—*St. Louis Enquirer*, Sept. 15.
- 1836 His trunks and *bureaus* were broken open and rifled.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, July 7.
- 1851 He left a paper on his *bureau*, telling me to send down for half a bushel of oysters.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxvii. 120 (Feb.).
- 1853 There's a *chest of drawers* to set against the door; so you'll be free from intrusion.—'Life Scenes,' p. 48.
- 1856 He sticks and catches just like an old *bureau* drawer.—H. B. Stowe, 'Dred,' chap. xxvii.
- 1866 The ball went dead through a house, and tore a *bureau* all to flinders.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 39.
- 1867 I lay down upon a couch in the room, directly opposite a *bureau* upon which was a looking glass.—F. B. Carpenter, 'Six Months at the White House,' p. 164 (N.Y.).
- 1890 Our *bureaus* were always called *bureaus*; but they were in fact packing boxes.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 253.

**Burgoyne, to.** To capture entirely: from the taking of General Burgoyne at Saratoga.

- 1779 The enemies to Government boast that [Prevost has been attacked on James Island], and as they say *Burgoyned*.—'Diary of Tho. Hutchinson,' Aug. 10.
- 1780 Their numbers will be wasted, and the miserable remains of them *Burgoyned*.—John Adams (from Amsterdam) to Mr. Calkoen, Oct. 7.
- 1793 The Duke of York Cornwallis'd and *Burgoyne'd* in Holland.—Heading in *Farmer's Register*, Greensburg, Pa., Dec. 28.

**Burgoyne, to**—*contd.*

- 1807      Brag if you please, but I'll be shot  
             If you'll *Burgoyne* a Bernadott' ;  
             You'll find, too late to mend your follies,  
             That Angereau is not Cornwallis.  
                     *N.Y. Weekly Inspector*, New Year's Address.
- 1820      To *Burgoyne* an army was, during the war, a favorite phrase in America, to express a complete capture.—Note to John Trumbull's 'McFingal,' p. 162 (Hartford ed.).

**Burn powder, to.** To use ammunition. Apparently American.

- 1785      [They prepared an expensive entertainment], while the soldiers were left to *burn powder* to no purpose.—Address by Gov. Sullivan of New Hampshire : *American Museum*, v. 578 (1789).
- 1850      Civil war, disunion, and *the burning of gunpowder* are threatened.—Mr. Williams of Tennessee, House of Repr., Aug. 9 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1051, Appendix.

**Burner.** A swindler. (Probably peculiar to Philadelphia ; but see 1845.)

- 1842      The *burners* make better plots than most of our dramatists. Moreover, *burners*, male and female, are mortal men and women, have their frailties, and miss their figures occasionally.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Jan. 15.
- 1842      An old convict and notorious *burner*, just out of the Moyamensing tombs, was caught in the vicinity of St. Stephen's Church, trying to wheedle a countryman. A lot of bad money, a book for telling fortunes, a pack of playing cards, and other things belonging to the *burner's* calling, were found upon his person.—*Id.*, Feb. 21.
- 1842      BURNERS. This is a slang term by which the police designate a particular branch of those industrious individuals who live by their wits. . . . Occasionally they snatch money from the hands of strangers ; again, they entice some willing dupe into a game of cards, and pluck him as bare as an unfledged pigeon.—*Id.*, May 7.
- 1844      Two negro *burners* were arrested in the act of trying to *burn* two Pottsville boatmen with a plated chain worth about fifteen cents.—*Id.*, Aug. 19.
- 1845      The Empire Club [of New York] was organized in July last, and it consisted of gamblers, pickpockets, droppers, *burners*, thimble-riggers, and the like.—Mr. Clingman of N. Carolina, House of Representatives, Jan. 6 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 118, Appendix.

**Burrite.** A follower of Aaron Burr.

- 1802      *Burrites* ! Clintonians ! Democrats ! hear me for my family.—Parody by "A Clintonian *Burrite*," *The Balance*, Aug. 10, p. 250 (Hudson, N.Y.).
- 1804      The insolent menaces of the saucy *Burrites*.—*Id.*, March 20, p. 91.
- 1804      See FED.

**Burrite**—*contd.*

- 1804 Both *Burrites* and *Lewisites* are very polite to the Federalists.—*Mass. Spy*, May 2.
- 1806 New-York is now divided into four distinct political parties: the Federalists, the *Burrites*, the Clintonians, and the Livingstonians.—*The Repertory*, March 4 (Boston).
- 1824 It is not very serviceable to talk much of *Burrites*, *Lewisites*, and the High minded.—B. F. Butler to Jesse Hoyt. Wm. L. Mackenzie's 'Life of M. Van Buren,' p. 169 (Boston).
- 1842 This meeting was got up by a few dissatisfied *Burrites*, &c. . . . Some respectable *Lewisites* and *Burrites*.—J. D. Hammond, 'History of Political Parties,' i. 230, 275.

**Burro.** A donkey. Spanish. A word frequently used by Southey. See N.E.D. It is told of a "tenderfoot" freight clerk in the West, that, being instructed to inquire for a missing burro, he reported, "No chest of drawers here; but there is a donkey without any label."

- 1862 This wild, rocky region, wherein bearded miners, fierce Pah-Utes, brazing (? braying) *burros*, and immense shoals of smaller fry, do roam.—*Knickerbocker*, lix. 107 (Jan.).
- 1862 A train of six *burros*, vulgarly called "Jacks," rolled out yesterday, heavily loaded for the Southern mines.—*Rocky Mountain News* (Denver), May 10.
- 1862 We noticed a packtrain of some twenty *buros* (*sic*) in the streets yesterday, fitting out for the Arkansas diggings.—*Id.*, Nov. 27.
- 1878 I noticed a miserable little *burro*, no bigger than a good-sized ram, staggering under an entire bedstead, strapped on his back.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 236.

**Burr-oak.** The overcup oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*.

- 1833 A pile of *burr-oak*, which makes a capital fire, flames up the enormous wooden chimney.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 257 (Lond., 1835).

**Burst one's boiler.** To come to grief, to collapse. In a figurative sense, probably American.

- 1824 A short essay, repeating this phrase at the end of every paragraph, is to be found in the *Franklin Herald* (Greenfield, Mass.), March 2: being copied from the *Cheraw Intelligencer*.

**Burthensome.** Capable of carrying a cargo. Obs.

- 1763 A very good and *burthensome* Schooner for sale.—*Boston Evening Post*, May 9.
- 1766 Wanted to purchase, a *burthensome* Sloop of about 55 Tons. *Id.*, Feb. 17.
- 1772 Wanted a good *burthensome* double-deck'd vessel about 150 or 160 Tons.—*Boston-Gazette*, Jan. 27.
- 1834 The *burthensome* steamboats from New Orleans reach [St. Louis] at the lowest stage of the river.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' ii. 74 (Lond., 1835).

**Bush-light.** See quotation.

1838 Torches were seen glowing in the range of whitewashed huts, and a *bush-light* was flaming near Jaque's habitation. [Note.] A fire of light wood kindled on a small mound of earth.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 82.

**Bush-whack.** To propel a boat by laying hold of bushes and overhanging branches, and walking toward the stern.

1826 We began to pull the boat up the stream by a process which in the technics of the boatmen is called *bush-whacking*.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 86.

1854 When the waters are high, and the boat can run along under bushes on the river-bank, pulling up by the bushes, this is called *bush-whacking*.—Lambert Lilly, 'Hist. of the Western States,' p. 30 (Boston).

**Bushwhack.** To prowl among bushes ; hence, to pursue a guerilla warfare ; to talk all round a subject.

1813               These *bush-whacking* Yankees won't do  
                    For me to be dwelling among.

*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 27.

1836 I mounted the stump that had been cut down for the occasion, and began to *bushwhack* in the most approved style.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 17 (Phila.).

1841 Mr. Benton thanked the Senator—they should now have a fair contest, and no "*bush-whacking*."—U.S. Senate, Jan. 8 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 91.

1845 All Mr. Foster [of Tenn.] asked for was a clear field and a fair fight—no *bush-whacking*, if he might be indulged in an expressive word, well understood in the border wars of the West.—The same, Feb. 3 : *id.*, p. 152, App.

**Bushwhacker.** A guerilla, a sharp-shooter.

1809 They were gallant *bush-whackers* and hunters of racoons by moonlight.—W. Irving, 'Knickerbockers' (1849), vi. 342. (N.E.D.)

1834 I belonged to Captain Williams's troop, called the *Bush Whackers*.—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' i. 92 (1837).

1861 Three hundred miles of frontier, exposed to "*bushwhackers*."—Speech of Gen. Rosecrans, Dec. 11 : O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' ii. 461.

1862 The supposed object of the expedition is to drive up beeves, though some are of opinion that we are in search of "*bushwhackers*."—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xii. 393.

1862 Of banditti, or *bushwhackers*, . . . we say nothing—*Macmillan's Mag.*, p. 141. (N.E.D.)

1867 He lost his life by *bushwhackers* while on one of these expeditions near Alexandria.—J. M. Crawford, 'Mosby and his Men,' p. 77 (N.Y.).

1867 Three miles from the town, Montjoy, being far ahead of his men, was *bushwhacked*, and received a mortal wound in the head.—*Id.*, p. 306.

**Bushwhacker—contd.**

1885 Think of being pursued day after day by a party of *bushwhackers*, watching from behind trees a chance to pick you off.—Admiral D. D. Porter, 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 245.

1888 [In Texas, down to 1866,] jay hawkers, bandits, and *bushwhackers* had everything their own way.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 260.

**Business, do the, for one.** In good sense. See quotation.

1829 An answer so proper produced an instant impression. *It did the business for George.* It aroused attention, and created instant sympathy.—Timothy Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 81 (Boston).

**Busking.** Searching. Obs. and rare. "*Busking* for trout" occurs in 1653: N.E.D.

1790 May 4. Here it was understood that the Indians of Coosawda were engaged in a grand *busking* for mulberries.—A. J. Pickett, 'Hist. of Alabama,' chap. xxv.

**Bust.** A burst; a "spree."

1850 [Miners were coming in] to expend their gold on what they term "*a burst*"; which is a constant revel, day and night, for three or four days, and often a week at a time.—Theodore T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Region,' p. 165 (N.Y.).

1856 Mr. C. B., while reading one of my pieces, went off on a regular *bust*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 405 (Oct.).

1857 She had retained such refreshing simplicity as to consider a work of art alone suggested by "*bust*."—T. B. Gunn, 'New York Boarding Houses,' p. 174.

1857 He abandoned work, and went off on a fortnight's "*bust*," returning at the expiration of that time without a cent and with *delirium tremens*.—*Id.*, p. 254.

1859 Young fellows on a frolic, taking it for a "*bust*," go [to a meeting] and substitute a sort of second constitution to control us here.—Mr. Thompson of Kentucky, U.S. Senate, Jan. 14: *Cong. Globe*, p. 376.

**Bustler.** A lady's bustle. [Which form was earlier?]

1787 A paper, "On the use of *bustlers*," *American Museum*, ii. 482-4. The introduction of "the ridiculous, deforming, and (may I add?) inhuman *bustler*" is referred to the visit of a German duchess to London, in the fall of the year 1783.

1788 Such locks the nymphs now wear (in silks who rustle)  
In rich luxuriance reaching to the *bustle*.

T. Monro, 'Olla Podrida,' No. 40 (N.E.D.).

**Butcher-knife.** Similarly BARBER-SHOP. *The Balance*, Oct. 22, 1805, mentions "a drunken sailor frolic."

1822 Her foot slipt, and she fell upon a large *butcher-knife* which she had in her hand.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 25.

1837 With a large *butcher-knife* [they] skinned all the hair off her head.—John L. Williams, 'Florida,' p. 254 (N.Y.).

**Butcher-knife**—*contd.*

- 1838 The pack was found to contain the body of a man, with a *butcher-knife* in his hand.—Balt. *Comml. Transcript*, Feb. 7, p. 2/4.
- 1851 He broke into the congregation with a large *butcher-knife* in his hand.—Gustavus Hines, 'Oregon,' p. 190.
- 1853 One of the hands of the dead man grasped a long *butcher-knife*.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 289. [Two pages later, he writes *butcher's knife*.]
- 1853 When you go into the harvest field, carry a good *butcher knife* in your belt.... Let every man, woman, and child, that can handle a *butcher knife*, be good for one Indian, and you are safe.—Brigham Young, July 31: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 167-8.

**Butt.** See quot. 1850.

- 1850 Richard took an axe, and very neatly proceeded to "*butt*" a log; that is, to cut the end of it square off.—Sylvester Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 41.
- 1880 If we were buying the logs, we should try to get enough off the scale to pay for the *butting*.—*Northwestern Lumberman*, Jan. 24 (N.E.D.).

**Butt cut.** The butted end of a log.

- 1830 [Dixon H. Lewis of Alabama] weighs little short of 450 lbs., and is familiarly known as the *But-cut*.—*Northern Watchman* (Troy, N.Y.), Oct. 19. [John Quincy Adams styled Mr. Lewis "the Silenus of the House,—a Falstaff, without his wit and good humour."]
- 1840 Nebuchadnezzar couldn't beat him at a speech; he's the *butt cut* of Democracy.—John P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 190 (1860).
- 1851 In two hours more, [your horse] won't be able to step over the *butt cut* of a broom straw.—'Adventures of Simon Suggs,' p. 38 (Phila.).
- 1878 The "*butt-cut*" of the tree lies as it fell.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 143.

**Butte** (pronounced *bute*). See quot. 1846.

- 1838 Red *Bute*, which is a high bluff.—Parker, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 70 (N.E.D.).
- 1846 Far in front, rising solitary from the face of the plain, are elevated *buttes*, of singular configuration. The plain appears at some geological era to have been submerged, with the exception of these *buttes*, which were islands.—E. Bryant, 'What I Saw in California,' p. 113 (Lond., 1849).
- 1878 In about four minutes you couldn't a told that stranger's face from a map o' this territory, it was so full o' red *buttes* an' black deserts.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 185.
- 1878 The *butte* is nearly two miles long and a mile wide, rising evenly from the plain on every side.—*Id.*, p. 244.

**Butt-ender.** A rowdy. Local.

1841 Gentlemen assembling under the delicate designation of "*Butt-enders*" in Brooklyn or Williamsburgh.—*Arcturus* (N.Y.), i. 79.

**Butter box.** See quotation.

1909 What New York youngster ever hopped a "*butterbox*" ? Indeed, what New York youngster ever heard of a "*butterbox*" ? This is the name applied [in the country] to the spring wagons of farmer and grocer, divested of wheels and set up on runners for the winter season.—*New York Ev. Post*, Jan. 28.

**Butternut.** The white walnut ; also, the nut which it bears. The Confederate troops wore clothes dyed with butternut extract (see quot. 1865) and were commonly called "*butter-nuts*."

1781 The *butternut* furnishes fine but tender boards ; and its bark dyes black, and cures cutaneous disorders.—Samuel Peters, 'History of Connecticut,' p. 247.

1788 The *butternut tree* is sometimes so large as to measure ten feet in circumference. It is a species of *juglans*, seemingly not mentioned by Linnæus. The bark was much used in the Continental army, during the late war, and proves a good substitute for jalap, rhubarb, and other cathartics of foreign production.—*American Museum*, iv. 436 : from Dr. Mitchell's Journal.

1792 Oil-nut or *Butter-nut*. The extract of [its bark] is one of the best cathartics in the *materia medica*. It is an excellent family medicine.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 101.

1802 The stockings were changed [by spontaneous combustion] to a brown, or what is commonly called a *butternut* color.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 17.

1810 Two pair home-made pantaloons, the one dark-colored, the other *light butternut*.—*Id.*, Feb. 21.

1821 The hail stones increased to the size of a large *butternut*.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 100.

1822 The timber is maple, ash, hickory, elm, sycamore, *butternut*, &c.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 6 : from *The Detroit Gazette*.

1830 His were the coarse *butternut colored*, snug-setting trowsers, reaching only to the calf of his leg.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 24 : from *The N. Y. Constellation*.

1855 We stopped to lunch under a noble *butternut tree*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlv. 566 (June).

1855 Myriads of all conceivable-sized and mis-shapen insects, some as large as a *butter-nut*, and similar in smell and color.—*Id.*, xlvi. 599 (Dec.).

1856 Home-spun cloth, dyed a brownish yellow with a decoction of the bitter barked *butternut*.—Derby, 'Phoenixiana,' p. 129.



**Butternut**—*contd.*

- 1859 A stout-looking individual, in a *butternut suit* and home-made straw hat, rode up.—Mrs. Duniway, 'Captain Gray's Company,' p. 86 (Portland, Oregon).
- 1865 From the extreme front you catch an occasional glimpse of the Rebels, "*Butternuts*" as they are termed in camp, from their cinnamon-hued homespun, dyed with *butternut extract*.—A. D. Richardson, 'The Secret Service,' p. 256 (Hartford, Conn.).

**Buttoning up.** See quotation. Carlyle (1837) has "thoughts which he must button close up."—'French Revolution,' ii. 136 (N.E.D.).

- 1841 Not a man could be found in Wall Street, who confessed the ownership of a share. This is called "*buttoning up*."—'A Week in Wall Street,' p. 47 (N.Y.).

**Buttonwood.** The occidental plane-tree.

- 1775 Western plantane, with lobated leaves, (vulgo) *button wood*, water beech, or sycamore.—Bernard Romans, 'Florida,' p. 27.
- 1781 Elms and *button-trees* surround the center square of New-haven.—Samuel Peters, 'Hist. of Connecticut,' p. 185 (Lond.).
- 1791 Along the streams, the timber runs mostly on *button wood*, beach (*sic*) and maple.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 6.
- 1792 *Buttonwood* is a large tree, but as tough as the hornbeam. —Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 102.
- 1799 The old *button-wood* meeting-house in Philadelphia was made into a military riding-house.—*The Aurora* (Phila.), May 21.
- 1807 [The Lombardy poplar] is not comparable to the locust, the elm, the walnut, the *buttonwood*, or the oak.—"Mentor" in *The Balance*, May 12, p. 145.
- 1818 A piece of a large *button-wood* tree has been hollowed out and placed for a curb, to prevent people from falling into [the well].—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 14.
- 1824 The *buttonwood* is neither good for fuel nor timber.—*Mass. Yeoman*, April 21.
- 1851 General Washington measured a *Button-wood* growing on an island in the Ohio, and found its girth, at five feet from the ground, about forty feet.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 16 (N.Y.).
- 1858 The *button-wood* throws off its bark in large flakes.—'Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table,' chap. vii.

**Buy.** A purchase, a bargain.

- 1890 Biggest *buy* in town.—Van Dyke, 'Millionaires of a Day,' p. 134.



**By and large.** Comprehensively.

- 1833 A man who feels rather perplexed on the whole, take it *by and large*.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' p. 23.
- 1845 He had been speaking for four hours, ostensibly on the Panama mission, but actually travelled over everything *by and large*.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' ii. 159.
- 1857 I know what women be. Take 'em *by and large*, they're better'n men.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 172.
- 1869 Taking it "*by and large*," as the sailors say, we had a pleasant run.—Mark Twain, 'Innocents Abroad,' chap. v.
- 1875 Taking you *by and large*, you do seem to be more different kinds of an ass than any creature I ever saw before.—Mark Twain, 'Old Times': *Atlantic Monthly*, p. 285 (March).
- 1906 Considered *by and large*, the canals seem to be equally distributed.—Percival Lowell, 'Mars and its Canals,' p. 188.

**By the name of.** Now colloquial and U.S.

- 1676 A Nephew of his *by the name of Maestro Santo*.—'Life of Fr. Sarpi.' (N.E.D.)
- 1796 An American *by the name of Figsby*.—*Mass. Spy*, July 13.
- 1799 The two murderers *by the name of Harps* [of Kentucky] were arrested, and broke the Danville Gaol.—*Id.*, Oct. 9.
- 1802 A boy in Sanford, *by the name of Tripp*.—*Id.*, Sept. 22.
- 1806 A young man *by the name of Swiney* has been found guilty of forgery.—*The Balance*, Sept. 23, p. 302.
- 1812 A butcher *by the name of Mumma*, and two others.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 2.
- 1817 A man *by the name of Thomas Baldwin* passed through this city yesterday.—*Id.*, Feb. 19.
- 1817 Ran away, a Boy *by the name of Timothy*.—*Id.*, Sept. 24.
- 1819 [A small boy of the name of Powers.—*Id.*, Aug. 25.]
- 1836 A gentleman *by the name of Glover* advertised for a help.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Nov. 12.
- 1840 A poor fellow *by the name of Herrigan* attempted to cut his throat.—*Daily Pennant* (St. Louis), May 7.
- 1859 I knew one young fellow *by the name of Hiram*.—'Professor at the Breakfast-Table,' chap. iv.

**Bye.** A lateral eddy.

- 1801 For fear of being drawn into a *bye*, he put to shore at a steep bank, where a large tree fell across his boat.—*Mass. Spy*, July 29.

**Byme-by.** By and bye.

- 1786 Oh! he say, land dear now, *bumbye* buy him five dollars nacre. [Negro talk.]—*Exchange Advertiser* (Boston), Oct. 19: from *Newport Mercury*.
- 1824 Well, *bimeby* he took notion to hab my darter.... Well, *bimeby* I found em out, and says I, Chloe, you shant hab him. [A negro in New England loq.]—*Nantucket Inquirer*, Jan. 5.



**Caboodle.** Company; "crowd."

- 1856 The whole *caluboodle* hover about me.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 54 (Jan.).
- 1873 I walked up as collected-looking as if I owned the whole *caboodle* of them.—Marietta Holley, 'Betsy Bobbet,' p. 351 (Bartlett).
- 1891 There ain't one of the hull *caboodle* but what despises an onmarried woman.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Huckleberries,' p. 287 (Boston).

**Caboose, Camboose.** A ship's cooking-stove; hence, the galley or ship's kitchen. A word probably of Dutch origin. See Skeat's 'Etymol. Dict.' Littré says that, in the form *cambuse*, it came into use in the merchant navy of France about 1750, meaning a ship's kitchen.

- 1766 'Twas imagined she took fire at sea, as her *cabouse* was burnt.—*Boston Evening Post*, Nov. 10.
- 1769 [They] sent out a Pilot Boat to search for the Vessel, but found only the Binnacle, a *Caboose*, and Sugar Box.—*Boston Post-Boy*, Feb. 6.
- 1786 For Sale, "One elegant patent *caboose*."—*Maryland Journal*, June 23.
- 1790 This was the occasion of my losing my boat, *caboose*, &c., off the main deck.—*Gazette of the U.S.* (Phila.), Dec. 15.
- 1795 "Cambooses, pots, and other castings executed at the shortest notice."—Advt., *id.*, Aug. 4.
- 1799 "Ship's Patent *Caboose*s" advertised.—*Mass. Mercury*, June 21.
- 1803 There never was any occasion for us to have recourse to the *caboose*.—John Davis, 'Travels in the U.S.A.,' p. 10 (Lond.).
- 1805 "Thirty *Cambooses* of different sizes—Stove, &c."—Advt., *The Repertory*, May 17 (Boston).
- 1809 Davidson then went from the quarter deck to the *caboose*.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 2.
- 1810 George Youle advertises that "His *Cambooses* have a great advantage over others. They cook for double the number of persons."—*The Repertory*, Feb. 13.
- 1812 For sale, "One Patent *Cabouse*, suitable for a ship of 220 Tons, partly worn."—*Boston-Gazette*, Sept. 28.
- 1819 He seized a brand of fire from the kettle which served for a *caboose*.—*Western Review*, Aug. (Lexington, Ky.).
- 1821 [They searched] every hole and corner of the vessel but the right one, and nothing was left unexamined but the *caboose*.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 1: from the *Salem Gazette*.
- 1834 [He has] set fire to the boarding of the small galley—the *caboose* they calls it in merchantmen.—*Blackwood's Mag.*, xxxvi. 33.
- 1839 I had a judgment in dainties, which could only be expected from one who had been indulged in the fat of the *caboose*.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' i. 16 (Phila.).
- 1844 His wanderings from *camboose* to cabin, and from cabin to *camboose*.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 100 (Phila.).

**Caboose.** Any small and crowded place: especially the cab of a locomotive (*Notes and Queries*, 10 S. ii. 214) and the narrow accommodation allotted to workmen, drovers, &c., on railway trains.

1839 We have a postmaster in our little village, who is a most thorough electioneerer, and in his little *caboose* of a post office I found electioneering interferences.—Mr. Preston of So. Car. in the House of Representatives, Feb. 15: *Congressional Globe*, Appendix, p. 343.

1859 Almost the first man he met in the “*caboose*” was an old acquaintance, a drover from the West, who was passing down with a lot of cattle.—*Knicker. Mag.*, liii. 329 (March).

1881 The *caboose* of the construction train, containing workmen and several boys.—*Chicago Times*, June 18. (N.E.D.)

1888 A *caboose* drawn by two engines jumped the track at Great Barrington, Vt.—*Daily Inter-Ocean* (Farmer).

**Cache.** A hiding-place. To *CACHE*, to hide. Fr.

1595 The inhabitants, having intelligence of our coming, had . . . hid their treasure in *casshes*.—Drake, ‘*Voyage*,’ p. 12. (N.E.D.)

1817 The Aricaras could not spare any provisions, as the excessive rains had penetrated into their *caches*, and spoiled the whole of their reserved stock.—John Bradbury, ‘*Travels*,’ p. 118.

1823 He observed a recent mound of earth, about eight feet in height, which he was induced to believe must be a *cache*, or place of deposit, for spoils taken from an enemy . . . He saw several *caches*, which had been broken open and robbed of their corn by the Omawhaws.—E. James, ‘*Rocky Mountain Expedition*,’ i. 90, 190.

1830 [Reference goes back to this year.] The manner of *caching* furs is this: A pit is dug to a depth of five or six feet, in which to stand. The men then drift from this under a bank of solid earth, and excavate a room of considerable dimensions, in which the furs are deposited, and the apartment closed up. The pit is then filled with earth. These *caches* are the only storehouses of the wilderness.—Mrs. Victor, ‘*The River of the West*,’ p. 89 (Hartford, Conn., 1870).

1833 We returned to Beaver river, and dug up the furs that we had buried, or *cashed*, as the phrase is.—‘*Narrative of J. O. Pattie*,’ p. 64 (Cincinnati).

1855 In a short time we had one of the 6lb. howitzers, we had taken out of the *cache*, ready for action.—*Oregonian*, Dec. 29.

1856 *Cache*, as used by mountain men, means a hole in the ground, where provisions are concealed.—*Id.*, March 22.

1857 Go and build your storehouses, and get your wheat together, and when the time to *cache* the wheat comes, we will *cache* it.—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 23: ‘*Journal of Discourses*,’ v. 180.

**Cache**—*contd.*

1857 You say you are going to work to *cache* your grain, and so am I.—The same, at the Tabernacle, Nov. 29: *id.*, vi. 103.

1862 —To *cache* the horses and unload the boats.—*Harper's Weekly*, June 7.

**Caddo.** An Indian of a tribe now extinct.

1818 [He has] returned from a trading expedition up the Red River, among the Iotans, *Cados*, and Choctaws.... A *Cado* bit off the under lip of a Choctaw.—Birkbeck, 'Letters from Illinois,' p. 111 (Phila.).

1836 A *Caddo* had been seized as a spy, and threatened with death.... The next instant the *Caddo's* knife was in his hand, for the savage sprung with the quickness of the wild cat upon his prey.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' pp. 122–123 (Phila.).

1838 In the place of the wild *Caddoes* and Camanches would appear a race of men rapidly fulfilling the high destiny of civilized man.—Mr. Preston of So. Car. in the House of Representatives: *Congressional Globe*, p. 558, Appendix.

1844 "A treaty with the *Caddoes* and other wandering tribes." —*Congressional Globe*, p. 377.

**Cag bread.** A kind not named in the dictionaries.

1788 The subscriber has just begun to bake Ship, Pilot, and *Cag Bread*.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, March 7.

**Cahoot.** Partnership.

1834 (Feb.) I will splice the member from North Carolina to you, and for a short time will consider you *in cahoot*.—Speech of S. S. Prentiss, 'Life' (1884), p. 239.

1839 I feel a freedom in talking to you; and in order to have a full and ample case, I will splice the member from North Carolina to you, and for a short time will consider you one person, or *in cahoot*.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio in the House of Representatives: *Congressional Globe*, March 4, p. 211.  
[From the latter quotation it seems doubtful whether Mr. Prentiss said the same thing five years earlier.]

1845 Pete Hopkins ain't no better nor he should be, and I wouldn't swear he wasn't *in cahoot* with 'em. —'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 74 (incorrectly quoted, Bartlett).

1846 Who wants a parcel of low-flung outside barbarians to go *in cahoot* with us?—*Oregon Spectator*, May 28. (Given as a specimen of stump oratory.)

1851 If I could only get the township and range, I'd make a *cahoot* business with old D.—'Adventures of Simon Suggs,' p. 37 (Phila.).

1852 A resident of Florida supplies the following local terms:—A cracker has just lighted at my office, and informed me that a neighbor who was *in cahoot* with him had honeyfackled him in the matter of a heap of logs which they had been getting out on a quarter (40 ac.) about a look from a branch near the old field on the Fatio grant.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xl. 548 (Dec.).

**Cahoot**—*contd.*

- 1857 They all agree to *cahoot* with their claims against Nicaragua and Costa Rica.—*N.Y. Herald*, May 20 (Bartlett).
- 1881 It is an open secret that [Sargent, of California] has long been in "*cahoot*" with ex-Governor Shepherd.—*Philadelphia Record*, Feb. 8.
- 1888 Seibert and Noland are *in cahoots*. Seibert's friends will support Noland, and Noland's friends will support Seibert.—*Washington Post*, n.d. (Farmer).
- 1892 You are trying to get me to go in *cahoot* with you, and share your spoils.—W. N. Harben, 'A Mute Confessor,' p. 153 (Boston).

**Cake.** See quot. 1785. Now uncommon.

- 1785 *Cake* or *Cakey*, a foolish fellow.—Grose, 'Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue.' (N.E.D.)
- 1837 If we are briefly told that Mr. P. is a "*cake*," the word may be derided as a cant appellation, but volumes could not render our knowledge of the man more perfect.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 164.
- 1842 It won't be long before he fills the place of some one of the drones and *cakes* who now outrank him.—*Philadelphia Spirit of the Times*, Sept. 1.

**Cake, to take the.** To surpass all competitors. The allusion is to a cake-walk. TAKE THE RAG (q.v.) is an earlier phrase.

- 1886 As a purveyor of light literature, . . . Mr. Norris *takes the cake*.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, Sept. 2. (N.E.D.)

[See *Notes and Queries*, 8 S. i. 69, 176, 364.]

**Cake-walk.** A walking competition among negroes, in which the couple who put on most style "take the cake."

**Calabash.** A head. Slang.

- 1837 Mind how you chuck, or you'll crack his *calabash*.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 97.

**Calaboose.** A prison. Span. *Calaboza*.

- 1797 [He threatened me] with the horrors of the *Callibouse* if I any longer disputed his authority.—Fra. Baily, F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 289 (Lond., 1856).
- 1819 The *calabose* [in New Orleans,] whither all vagrants, taken after the nine o'clock signal gun is fired, are sent.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 123 (Boston, 1824).
- 1826 [Along the Mississippi, in the 18th century,] the commandant, a priest, a file of soldiers, and a *calaboza*, made up the engine of Government.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 208.
- 1835 We passed the famous *Calaboos*, or *Calabozo*, the city prison, so celebrated by all seamen who have made the voyage to New-Orleans.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' i. 111.
- 1835 Sam he got off to the boat, but the *Calaboos* men got Joe.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 146.

**Calaboose**—*contd.*

- 1835 "Five Months in the *Calibouse*."—Story by William Comstock: *Boston Pearl*, Sept. 26.
- 1840 A poor fellow by the name of Herrigan cut his throat in the *calaboose* last night.—*Daily Pennant* (St. Louis), May 7.
- 1840 The pugnacious gentlemen were lodged in the *calaboose*.—*Id.*, June 9.
- 1840 He will be put in the *calaboose* tonight, and tomorrow sent to jail, or to the hospital.—*Id.*, July 11.
- 1846 The *calaboose* [at San Jose] is a miserable dark room of two apartments, one with a small loophole in the wall, the other a dungeon without light or ventilation.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I Saw in California,' p. 274 (Lond., 1849).
- 1852 No one coming forward as bail, the magician was locked up in the *calaboose*.—*Daily Morning Herald* (St. Louis), Dec. 26.
- 1862 We learn he has secured quarters at the *calaboose*.—*Rocky Mountain News* (Denver), Sept. 11.
- 1868 He became a maniac for the time being, kicking up a general row, and fighting the policemen. Of course his lodging that night was in the *calaboose*.—Sol. Smith, 'Autobiography,' p. 211.
- 1888 Charley Read struck an old tramp in the *calaboose*, who looked disgusted at his headquarters.—*Santa Ana Blade*, n.d. (Farmer).

**Calaboose**, v. To imprison. Rarely met with.

- 1857 Colonel Titus was *calaboosed* for shooting at the porter of the Planters' House.—*Cincinnati Commercial*, n.d. (Bartlett).

**Calculate.** To think; to "guess"; to "reckon."

- bef. 1812. "Capital, gentlemen, capital," said the farmer; "you are right humorsome, I *calculate*. What's to pay?"—Bernard, 'Retrospections of America,' p. 307 (N.Y., 1887).
- 1850, 1857, &c. N.E.D.
- 1851 I *kalkilated* them curs o' hisn wasn't worth shucks in a bar fight.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 51.
- 1852 The New Englander *calculates*, the Westerner reckons.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xvii. 177.
- 1867 Wal, Square, I guess so. *Callilate* to stay?—J. R. Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story.'
- 1869 *Kalklate* to quit the business [of stage-driving] next spring. I'm getting well along in years, and don't like it as well as I used to.—J. Ross Browne, 'Adventures in the Apache Country,' p. 313.

**Call for.** A deed is said to "call for" so many acres of land. Cf. to call for a reply, for consideration, &c.



**Calloused.** Hardened, callous.

1819 One, more bold than the rest, with *calloused* sensibilities, comes forth in the *Salem Register*.—*Mass. Spy*, March 24.

1850 Great welts and *calloused* spots.—‘*Uncle Tom’s Cabin*,’ p. 204. (N.E.D.)

**Camas.** See quot. 1838.

1837 The Indians come in summer time to dig the *camash* root.—W. Irving, ‘*Capt. Bonneville*,’ ii. 221. (N.E.D.)

1838 [The women] were gathering *cammas* roots. This root in some degree resembles in taste and nutritive properties the sweet potato.—Samuel Parker, ‘*Tour*,’ p. 120 (Ithaca, N.Y.).

1839 [He] bought a small quantity of dried salmon, and a little fermented *kamas* or *quamash* root.—J. K. Townsend, ‘*Narrative*,’ p. 124, (Phila.). See also p. 126.

1845 There is a root here, known as the *camas*, which is held in high repute by the Indians for some medicinal qualities it is thought to possess.—Joel Palmer, ‘*Journal*,’ p. 53 (Cincinnati, 1847).

**Cambridge platform.** A code of rules, consisting of seventeen chapters, adopted by the Puritans of New England in 1646. See Williamson’s ‘*Hist. of Maine*,’ i. 379.

**Campbellite.** A follower of Alexander Campbell: a “Disciple.” President Garfield was a “Disciple.”

1830 Elder Rigdon, one of the early Mormons, is described as having been “a *Campbelite* leader of some notoriety” by the *Painesville* (Ohio) *Gazette*: *Mass. Spy*, Dec. 22.

1841 The *Campbelites* are practising the most barefaced imposition upon the people of America and England that ever was introduced among men.—*Millennial Star*, p. 6 (May).

1845 A *Campbellite* preacher, named Foster, was reading a hymn, preparatory to religious worship.—Joel Palmer, ‘*Journal*,’ p. 23 (Cincinnati).

1855 I recollect a *Campbellite* preacher who came to Joseph Smith; I think his name was Hayden.—George A. Smith at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, June 24: ‘*Journal of Discourses*,’ ii. 326.

1881 Abram Garfield....united with a comparatively new sect, called Disciples, though *Campbellites* was a name by which they were sometimes known, in honor of the founder of the sect, Alexander Campbell.—W. M. Thayer. ‘*Log-Cabin to White House*,’ ii. (N.E.D.)

1908 Alexander Campbell was jest as good a man as Wesley and a sight better ’n Calvin, but you can’t make a *Campbellite* madder than to call him a *Campbellite*.—Eliza C. Hall, ‘*Aunt Jane of Kentucky*,’ p. 162.



**Camp-meeting.** A meeting for preaching, exhorting, &c., held in the forest. These meetings were originated by the Presbyterians, but abandoned by them, and taken up vigorously by the Methodists and Baptists.

1801 The first Presbyterian camp-meeting held in North Carolina, in October of this year, is described in W. H. Foote's 'Sketches of N. C.,' chap. xxvii. (N.Y., 1846).

1809 Our fanatics have not yet ventured to hold *camp-meetings*.—*Quarterly Rev.*, ii. 336. (N.E.D.)

1814 See *Qly. Rev.*, Jan., pp. 510–11.

1819 A *camp-meeting* [was] held near Franklin in the Missouri Territory, in May or June last....A few days after, a *camp-meeting* was held about four miles from my place of residence.—Letter from Edwardsville, Ill., Sept. 13: *Mass. Spy*, Nov. 3.

1829 Presbyterian *camp meetings* have been held in Ohio, and at Versailles, Ky.—*Id.*, July 22.

1829 Mrs. M. had been accustomed to think of a *camp-meeting* with unpleasant associations of every sort.—Timothy Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 103 (Boston).

1835 In the vicinity of this settlement [fifty miles from Natchez] the Presbyterians annually hold a *camp-meeting*. A Presbyterian *camp-meeting* is at least a novelty at the north.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 66.

1835 Intrigue, dissipation, electioneering, chaffering, and cheating hold their festival at the modern *camp-meeting*.—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in North America,' i. 97 (Lond.).

1843 A graphic description of one of these meetings occurs in 'The New Purchase,' by R. Carlton, chap. xlviii.

**Campus.** A college yard, lawn, or field. An excellent monograph on the use of this word was published in 1897 by Mr. Albert Matthews of Boston: see Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, vol. iii. pp. 431–7. The word appears (in writing) at Princeton, 1774, and does not seem to have been used elsewhere until about 1821. No earlier examples in print than those here given, 1833 and 1834, have yet been found, or are likely to be found. Finch, who was an Englishman, refers to Princeton.

1833 In front of the College is a fine *campus* ornamented with trees.—Finch's 'Travels in the US. and Canada,' p. 282.

1834 He acted on the present occasion precisely as he might have done in *the College Campus*, with all the benefits of a fair field and a plentiful crowd of backers. — W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' i. 189 (3rd ed., N.Y., 1837).

1840 We are told that the Abolition battle must be fought at the North; that we must deal kindly here, to afford a *campus* for their chivalry at home.—Mr. Colquitt of Georgia, House of Representatives, Jan 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 144 (Appendix).

**Campus—contd.**

- 1843 One morning was very unexpectedly seen a surveyor running a line across the *Campus* [in preparation for a new college].—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 273.
- 1866 The students retreated hastily to the *College Campus* (after the riot of 1854).—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxxi. 146.
- 1909 A fraternity chapter whose house was on the *campus* [at Middletown].—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, March 11.

**Cañada.** A mountain gorge. Spanish.

- 1846 The mountains on either side of the *cañada* or gorge are precipitous, and tower upwards several thousand feet above the level upon which we are travelling. . . . There seems to be an abundance of pine and red-wood in the *cañadas*.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I Saw in California,' pp. 126, 318 (Lond., 1849).
- 1850 Descending a long *cañada* in the mountains.—Bayard Taylor, 'Eldorado,' xiii. (1862). N.E.D.

**Canada Thistle.** The *Cirsium arvense*.

- 1799 A torvous, stubborn, and vexatious weed, known by the name of the *Canada thistle*.—*Mass. Spy*, July 31.
- 1819 A labourer pointed out to me a piece of ground covered with the *Canada Thistle*.—*Id.*, June 16: from the *Pittsfield Sun*.
- 1829 CANADA THISTLE. This noxious weed appears to be disseminating itself throughout the country.—*Id.*, July 23.
- 1850 I should advise him to keep his *Canada thistles* at home.—Mr. Clarke of N.Y., House of Repr., May 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 565 (Appendix).

**Candidacy.** Candidature.

- 1861 Mr. Opdike, by the brilliant canvass made under his *candidacy*, carried the party.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Nov. 22 (Bartlett).
- 1864 [John C. Fremont said] In accepting the *candidacy* you propose to me, &c.—*Daily Telegraph*, June 21. (N.E.D.)
- 1910 Absurd as his *candidacy* seemed in 1880, it was soon plain that to have been the disbursing agent of offices for Cornell and for Conkling, was to have interested the rank and file in his favor.—*New York Evening Post*, March 7.
- 1910 It should, of course, always be borne in mind that the Presidential *candidacy* of Mr. Taft was of a wholly different kind from that of the judge on the bench seeking political office.—*Id.*, March 28.

**Candle-berry myrtle.** See quotations.

- 1753 *Candle berry tree*, . . . an aromatic evergreen, . . . also called the Virginia myrtle.—'Chambers's Cycl.' (N.E.D.)
- 1775 The myrica, or *candle berry myrtle*, grows in great abundance on the sea shore.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 188.
- 1792 The *candle berry myrtle*, *myrica cerifera*, is mentioned by G. Imlay, 'Topographical Description,' p. 213.

**Candle-box returns.** Fraudulent votes.

- 1858 Cincinnati directories and *candle-box returns* have been infinitely more potent than the real votes of the inhabitants.—Mr. Wade of Ohio, U.S. Senate, March 15: *Congressional Globe*, p. 1122.

**Candle-lighting.** The time of lighting up.

- 1784 Said School to begin at *Candle-lighting*, and continue till Nine o'Clock, P.M.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Sept. 17.
- 1810 From dinner to dark I give to Society; and from *candle light* to early bed-time I read.—Thomas Jefferson to General Kosciusko, Feb. 26 (from Monticello).
- 1824 The Rev. Mr. Kidwell, a Unitarian Universalist, will preach at the court house at *early candle-light* on Sunday evening.—*Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette*, March 26.
- 1853 The dancing commenced at "*early candle-lighting*," and continued until long after midnight.—'Turnover: a Tale of New Hampshire,' p. 80 (Boston).
- 1866 By *early candle-light*, the company began to drop in.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 37.
- 1888 The meeting was appointed for *early candle-lighting*.—*American Humorist*, Aug. (Farmer).

**Candle-wood.** See quot. 1753.

- 1753 *Candle-wood*, strips of pine about the thickness of the finger, used in New England . . . to burn instead of candles.—'Chambers's Cycl.' (N.E.D.)
- 1857 The meal had but just been cleared away, and the *candle-wood* set blazing on the hearth . . . The fitful light of the burning *candle-wood* [flashed] full upon his tawny face.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' pp. 12, 15.

**Cane-bottom.** Lowland abounding in canes.

- 1847 The land here [on the Brazos River] is *cane-bottom*.—'Life of Benjamin Lundy,' p. 37 (Phila.).

**Cane-brake.** A thicket of cane-bushes.

- 1787 We lay by a large fire, in a thick *cane-brake* . . . I often reposed in thick *cane-brakes*, to avoid the savages.—Daniel Boon, in the *American Museum*, ii. 321-2.
- 1819 Large herds of cattle, which keep fat the year round on the range of *cane-breaks*.—Benjamin Harding, 'Tour through the Western Country,' p. 13 (New London, Conn.).
- 1821 The valley of the Arkansa is generally clad in rich forests and luxuriant *cane brakes*.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Expedition,' ii. 347 (Phila., 1823).
- 1829 A man could not make three miles a day through a thick *cane brake* . . . The burning of a *cane brake* makes the noise of a conflicting army, in which thousands of muskets are continually discharging.—*Mass. Spy*, June 3.
- 1834 With the fury of a wounded panther in a *cane-brake*.—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' i. 153 (1837).

**Cane-brake**—*contd.*

- 1835 The flames got into the *cane-brake*, crackling like a continued peal of musketry.—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in North America,' i. 256 (Lond.).
- 1838 On running through a *cane-brake*, the land over which he passed might be worthless.—Mr. Sevier in the U.S. Senate, April 9 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 293.

**Cañon.** A gorge. See quotations 1846, 1850, 1855.

- 1834 Two *cañons* ran up into the bosom of the ridge. (By the word *cañon* the Spaniards express a deep, narrow hollow among the mountains.—Albert Pike, 'Sketches, &c.,' p. 20 (Boston).)
- 1846 The Spanish word "*cañon*" implies a narrow, tunnel-like passage between high and precipitous banks, formed by mountains or table-lands. It is pronounced *kanyon*, and is a familiar term in the vocabulary of a mountaineer.—Rufus B. Sage, 'Scenes in the Rocky Mountains,' p. 111 n. (Phila.).
- 1850 A *cañon* is the narrow opening between two mountains, several hundred, and sometimes a thousand feet in depth.—Theodore T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Region,' p. 164 (N.Y.).
- 1850 The word *cañon* (meaning in Spanish a funnel) has a peculiar adaptation to these cleft channels through which the rivers are poured.—Bayard Taylor, 'Eldorado,' xxvii. (N.E.D.)
- 1852 Were I to go to the *kanyons*, the whole camp of Israel would follow me there.—Brigham Young, March 4 : 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 31.
- 1852 It is an uphill business, to go into these *kanyons* to get wood.—Brigham Young, Oct. 9 : *id.*, i. 210.
- 1853 I am going to the *kanyon* for a load of wood.—Brigham Young, July 31 : *id.*, i. 162.
- 1855       On they came, with a thunderous shout  
              That made the rocky *cañon* ring ;  
              —*Cañon*, in Spanish, means tube, or spout,  
              Gorge, or hollow, or some such thing.  
                                  *Knickerbocker Magazine*, xlv. 334 (April).
- 1869 [The island] was ribbed with sharp, steep ridges, and cloven with narrow *cañons*.—'Innocents Abroad,' chap. v.

**Cañoned.** Cloven with cañons.

- 1846 The shore is hilly, and *cañoned* in some places.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I Saw in California,' p. 303 (Lond., 1849).

**Cantankerous.** Ill-natured, quarrelsome, spiteful. Possibly of American origin, though early examples are English. It occurs in 'The Rivals,' 1775. (N.E.D.)

- 1772 There's not a more bitter *cantanckeros* road in all christendom.—'She Stoops to Conquer.' (N.E.D.)



**Canvas-back—contd.**

1839 [The public money] never has been applied to the purchase of *canvass-back ducks*, nor venison, nor even to turn bonds into gold.—Speech of Mr. Wise in Congress: *The Jeffersonian* (Albany), Jan. 12, p. 381.

**Cap the climax, to.** To surpass everything.

1804 Your correspondent *caps the climax* of Misrepresentation.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Intelligencer*, Feb. 21.

1811 It *caps the climax* of French arrogance and turpitude.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 18.

1819 To *cap the climax* of his villany, True forced Mr. Buswell to swallow a large quantity of pearl-ash and red-pepper.—*Id.*, April 28.

1821 To *cap the climax* of his infamy and barbarity, he severed the head from the body of the infant.—*Pennsylvania Intelligencer* (Harrisburg), March 21: from the *Missourian*.

1823 To *cap the climax* of this discipline of humanity, &c.—*Howard Gazette* (Boston), p. 2.

1824 In the Land of Mud, otherwise called Catskill, it appears one of the true born sons of invention and artifice has *capped the climax* of deceitful manœuvering, and eclipsed all the heroes of wooden nutmegs, horn gun-flint, and bass-wood button memory.—*The Microscope*, March 27, p. 4/1: from the *N.Y. Examiner*.

1826 Having gradually advanced towards *the cap of his climax*, "In short [said the Methodist preacher], "to say all in one word, heaven is a Kentuck of a place."—*Mass. Spy*, June 7.

1829 The family was precisely *the cap of the climax* of the ancient German grandees in the country.—T. Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 163.

1830 This office was still *the cap of his climax* of promotion.—T. Flint, 'The Shoshonee Valley,' i. 39 (Cincinnati).

1836 W. Irving (N.E.D.).

1841 Our Government cowered before [the British Minister], and this last act of submission has *capped the climax*.—Mr. Buchanan of Pa., U.S. Senate, June 15: *Congressional Globe*, p. 68, Appendix.

1853 To "*cap the climax*," Dow asserts that Wallenstein was the conqueror of Gustavus Adolphus.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xli. 276 (March).

1855 We can *cap the climax* by a leaf from our Hoosier reminiscences.—*Chicago Tribune*, n.d.

1858 To *cap the climax*, up would scamper the aforesaid Grimes.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, li. 371 (April).

1860 All that was wanting to *cap the climax* to this absurd [Lincoln] nomination was the selection of Hannibal Hamlin as a candidate for the Vice-Presidency.—*Corr.*, *Richmond Enquirer*, May 25, p. 4/5.

1861 To *cap the climax* of insult to our feelings, this party nominated [Mr. Lincoln] for the Presidency.—Farewell of Mr. Clay of Alabama, U.S. Senate: O. J. Victor, 'Hist. of the Southern Rebellion,' i. 258.





**Caption**—*contd.*

- 1825 The *caption* of an indictment runs thus.—W. W. Henning, 'The Virginia Justice,' p. 366 (4th ed., Richmond).
- 1836 The *captions* of the different chapters run as follows.—J. K. Paulding, 'Slavery in the U.S.,' p. 16 (N.Y.).
- 1838 In the first number of this magazine, under the above-written *caption*, was given, &c.—'The Hesperian,' i. 95.
- 1839 "Confession of Horrid Crime." A communication under the above *caption*, &c.—'Farmer's Monthly Visitor,' i. 69 : from the *Vermont Patriot*.
- 1839 Under the *caption* of 'Stop, Villain,' was an advertisement.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' ii. 86 (Phila.).
- 1841 There is a chapter in Montesquieu, the *caption* of which is that monarchs ought to be accessible.—Mr. Ingersoll of Pa., June 9 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 74, Appendix.
- 1844 "An Innocent Man Hung." Under this *caption* the *Paris* (Mo.) *Mercury* narrates some curious particulars.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, July 29.
- 1845 Then comes the *caption*, and then succeed the stanzas.—'Lowell Offering,' v. 188.
- 1860 We have no reason to believe that the above *caption* expresses an untruth.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxvi. 11.
- 1898 The full-face *captions* of divisions and subdivisions have of course been set by hand.—*The Nation*, N.Y., Feb. 17, p. 131.
- 1908 Under the *caption* of "Gavin Drummond," I [recently] submitted some facts.—Eugene F. McPike of Chicago, *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. ix. 446.

**Captivate.** To capture.

- 1825 He was "*captivated*" by a man who held a knife at his throat.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' iii. 112.
- 1840 We can *captivate* those chaps complete, if they only move a little further down stream.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Greyslaer,' i. 206 (Lond.).

**Carcague, Carcajou.** The Wolverine. Mentioned in Goldsmith's 'Natural History,' 1774.

- 1796 The Wolverine, called in Canada the *Carcajou*, and by hunters the Beaver-eater.—Morse, 'American Geography,' i. 196. (N.E.D.)
- 1846 The "*carcague*" is a native of the Rocky Mountains, and of a family and species found in no other part of the world as yet known. He seems a distinct genus, partaking the mixed nature of the wolf and bear, but is far more ferocious than either.... In size, he is considerably larger than the common cur-dog, and is more agile.—Rufus B. Sage, *Scenes in the Rocky Mountains*, pp. 126-7 (Phila.).

**Card.** A special notice in the nature of an advertisement. The N.E.D. gives only a very modern example (1887).

- 1769 A *Card* from the London and British Merchants to the American Merchants.—*Boston News-Letter*, Feb. 2.



**Card**—*contd.*

- 1769 *A Card* of more than a column, with reference to depositions concerning the threatening aspect of affairs in Boston.—*Boston Gazette*, Feb. 20.
- 1770 *A Card* of nearly two columns, concerning Whitefield's sermon preached at Cambridge, Mass.—*Boston Evening Post*, Sept. 10.
- 1770 *A Card* concerning an ordination at Medfield.—*Id.*, Oct. 15
- 1772 *A Card* addressed to Lord Dunmore.—*Mass. Spy*, April 23.
- 1772 *A Card*, addressed to the author of a piece signed "A Friend to Truth," suggesting that "A Friend to Falsehood" would be more suitable.—*Id.*, April 23.
- 1777 *A Card*, embodying a special notice about "the affair of Ticonderoga."—*Maryland Journal*, Aug. 5.
- 1791 *A Card* from W. Cooper and Arthur Noble, who presented samples of maple-sugar to the President.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 1.
- 1792 *A Card* from Mr. Harper to the citizens of Boston.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Dec. 22.
- 1798 *A Card* of apology for having omitted the name of a returned member of Congress.—*Mass. Mercury*, July 24.
- 1802 *A Card*, a column long, addressed by "Philander" to "A Young Miss," rebuking her for using profane language.—*The Balance*, Feb. 9, p. 44 (Hudson, N.Y.).
- 1802 This was answered by "*A Card*" from "A Young Lady," a fortnight later.—*Id.*, p. 57 (Feb. 23).
- 1801 *A Card*, concerning Kine Pox, from Dr. Waterhouse.—*Mass. Spy*, July 1.
- 1809 A CARD. The Town Clerk and Constable of Oxford saw the rich and odorous stream which was fired at them from a certain Democratic den, but *Laus Deo* ! It missed them !—*Mass. Spy*, May 24.
- 1810 If the parties are dissatisfied with what I published, I will without hesitation give place to their "*card*."—*Id.*, Aug. 1.
- 1813 *A Card*, recommending the Plymouth Beach Lottery.—*Boston Gazette*, March 29.

**Carf.** O.E. (about A.D. 1000) and Sc. (N.E.D.). A place on a tree where the axe has made an opening.

- 1897 He lifted his axe, and struck it into the *carf* on the tree.—W. D. Howells, 'Landlord at Lion's Head,' chap. vii.

**Carica.** See quotation.

- 1775 Here we begin to see a few of the tropical plants, such as *carica*, borassus, capsicum, mangles, and blackwood.—Bernard Romans, 'Florida,' p. 268.

**Carpet-bagger.** One who travels without much baggage. The term was used (1857) with reference to Kansas; but after the war it was applied to the adventurers described (1904) by Mr. Claiborne.—See *Notes and Queries*, 11 S. iii. 45.

1857 Early in the spring several thousand excellent young men came to Kansas. This was jokingly called the *carpet-bag* emigration.—*Herald of Freedom*, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> (Lawrence, Kas.).

1868 The *carpet-baggers* are immigrants from the North, who have thrown themselves into local politics; and through their influence the negroes obtained office.—*Daily News*, Sept. 18. (N.E.D.)

1871 Unprincipled white men, seeing an opportunity of office and plunder, joined the *carpet-baggers* [in So. Carolina].—‘*Southern Hist. Soc. Papers*,’ xii. 176.

1877 It was a contest waged against *carpet-baggers*, and when I say *carpet-bagger*, I mean by that thief.—Wade Hampton, Speech at Auburn, N.Y., June 19 (Bartlett).

1888 The head of the ticket is one of the most vulnerable men who figured in Southern politics in the *carpet-bag* era.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, n.d. (Farmer).

1904 The military government, which in this city (Petersburg, Va.) had preceded the installation of the *carpet-bag* and scalawag.—Claiborne, ‘*Seventy-Five Years in Old Virginia*,’ p. 319.

1904 These were called *carpetbaggers*, not because the word was descriptive or euphonious, but because they have no other name by which they are known. They were unprincipled adventurers who sought their fortunes in the South by plundering the disarmed and defenceless people.... That a few rascals and *carpetbaggers* might have unlimited license to thief and plunder.—*Id.*, pp. 323, 326.

**Carriole.** A sleigh.

1808 I rode in a *carirole* for one person.—Pike, ‘*Sources of the Mississippi*,’ i. 68. (N.E.D.)

1820 The *Carriole* gaily careers over the frost-bound river.—Silliman, ‘*Tour of Quebec*,’ p. 337. (N.E.D.)

1833 Their highest ambition is to turn out the fastest trotting pony when the *carriole* races commence on the ice at midsummer.—C. F. Hoffman, ‘*A Winter in the Far West*,’ i. 118 (Lond., 1835).

**Carry, Carrying.** A portage.

1857 From this place we were to walk over a “*carry*,” stated to be about a mile and a half, but which was nearer six.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 494 (Nov.).

1857 This was my first experience in “*carrying*,” the generic word for this sort of business.—*Id.*, 495.

1858 At length a Mr. H., who has a camp at the other end of the “*carry*,” appeared with a truck.... The next thing was to get our canoe and effects over the *carry*.—H. D. Thoreau, ‘*Chesuncook*’ (*Atl. Monthly*).

1860 We crossed the *carry* at day-break.—*All the Year Round*, p. 588. (N.E.D.)

**Carry-all.** An indefinite term for a carriage of a useful rather than handsome kind, variable in capacity.

- 1814 It is an unfair sight, to see women guiding their *carry-alls* to pamper the city with their luscious melons, without a man.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 27 (Boston, 1824).
- 1833 You can sartainly get along with that ar little *carry-all*.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 190 (Phila.).  
[For fuller quotation see PRIMING.]
- 1835 We prevailed upon [him] to lend us his horse Tony, and another "*carry-all*."—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in North America,' ii. 52 (Lond.).
- 1837 We mounted our *carry-all*, a carriage which holds four.—Harriet Martineau, 'Society in America,' i. 276. (N.E.D.)
- 1840 Queer *carry-alls* did these Buckeye boys construct ; strange arks, drawn by four, six, eight, and ten horses : shaded with boughs, and carrying from fifteen to thirty of the hard-handed gentry. — Buffalo *Commercial Advertiser*, Sept. 12.
- 1850 One man, who raised the largest cucumbers, and had the most satisfactory children, and drove the prettiest *carryall*.—Sylvester Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 46.
- 1853 Taking his wife in the old-fashioned but strong "*carryall*," he journeyed some forty miles.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, March 11.
- 1857 They came [to the frontier] in a one-horse "*carry-all*," and were apparently very poor.—*Knicker Mag.*, l. 441 (Nov.).

**Case.** A queer or difficult character.

- 1833 In the slang of the backwoods, one swore that he would never be one-eyed, that is, dishonest ; another, that he would never be "*a case*," that is, flat, without a dollar.—'Sketches of David Crockett,' p. 24 (N.Y.).
- 1840 Were you ever at a corn shucking in the West ? If you were, you never left it without hearing the wool hat and linsey hunting-shirt boys sing—  
     Mary Rogers are a *case*,  
     And so are Sally Thompson ;  
     General Jackson are a horse,  
     And so are Colonel Johnson.
- Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., April 10 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 435, Appendix.
- 1856 This sister of mine is a pretty rapid little *case*, I can tell you.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' chap. xv.
- 1862 The other prisoners are all sharp, intelligent-looking men, no hard-looking *cases* like Yankee prisoners and East Tennessee Tories usually are.—*The Southern Confederacy* (Atlanta, Ga.), May 3.

**Casket.** A coffin of an elaborate and costly kind.

1881 Here the *casket* will be placed on the train for Cleveland.  
—N.Y. corr. of *The Times*, Sept. 24. (N.E.D.)

1910 [The funeral eulogist] should, of course, compare his remarks to a flower, or, better still, a floweret, which he is dropping on the "*casket*." In polite society the word "coffin" has become obsolete. To sympathize with the mourners is to "mingle one's tears with theirs." The grave-stone is either "the marble shaft" or "the simple stone which marks the spot where his mouldering dust is deposited."—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Sept. 29.

**Cassaba or Cassava.** The manioc, from which tapioca is made.

1777 The inhabitants had none but *Cassava* bread.—Robertson, 'History of America,' ii. 430. (N.E.D.)

1837 A nigger wench, baking *cassaba* bread on an old rusty griddle.—*Knicker. Mag.*, ix. 270 (March).

**Cassine.** See quotation.

1775 At this place [the traveller] is entertained with tobacco and *cassine drink*. . . . The *cassine* is by them used as a drink. They barbacue or toast the leaves, and make a strong decoction of them.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 93.

**Cat.** A cat-fish.

1705 Conger-Eels, Perch, and *Cats*, &c.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' ii. 32.

1790 Perch, pike, eel, and *cats* of a monstrous size.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 16.

1796 The spotted *cat* is mentioned in Stedman's 'Surinam.' (N.E.D.)

1805 Fish scarce, and those principally of the *cat* kind.—*Mass. Spy*, July 17.

1853 Other kinds of river fish [were abundant,] but the huge "*cats*," where were they?—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 65.

**Cat in a strange garret.** Nearly equivalent to "a fish out of water."

1824 "What was King Caucus like?" said an old gentleman. "Why, like a *cat in a strange garret*, frightened at every step it took, and alarmed at every thing it saw."—*Woodstock (Vt.) Observer*, March 16: from *Niles's Register*.

**Catalpa.** A species of Bignonia. Mentioned by Catesby, 1731–1748. (N.E.D.)

1794 The *catalpa* is a large tree, with leaves remarkably simple and heart-shaped.—Martyn, 'Rousseau's Botany,' xxii. 317. (N.E.D.)

1816 The broad-leafed, long-podded *catalpa*.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 61 (Boston, 1824).

1818 The *catalpa* (Bignonia Catalpa) is now planted extensively in Opelousas, and is used for posts, bournes to the land, and other purposes demanding timber of long duration.—W. Darby, 'Emigrant's Guide,' p. 80 n,

**Catalpa—contd.**

- 1819 In the gardens [of New Orleans] frequently spread their umbrage the pride of China, and the broad-leaved *catalpa*.—Arthur Singleton, p. 118 (Boston, 1824).
- 1823 It is called *petalfra*, which, as well as *catalpa*, the received appellation, may be a corruption from *Catawba*, the name of the tribe of Indians by whom the tree may have been introduced.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Expedition,' i. 36 (Phila.).
- 1850 The ailanthus, and *catalpa*, are our cockney's favorite trees.—D. G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' ii. 166 (1852).

**Catawampous.** A ludicrous word associated with images of terror.

- 1843 The other one what got sker'd is a sort of *catawampus* (spiteful).—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 265.

**Cat-bird.** The *Muscicapa vertice nigro*: *Phil. Trans.* xxxvii. 175 (N.E.D.), 1731.

- 1821 The *Cat-bird* and the Thrush have native notes in an almost endless variety.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 54.

**Catch-all.** A miscellaneous receptacle.

- 1838 [The Administration party includes] old Federalists, the champions of the Hartford Convention, counterfeit Democrats, National Republicans, Antimasons, and Abolitionists. They have been a kind of *catch-all*, or *omnium gatherum*.—Mr. Yell of Arkansas in the House of Representatives, April 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 275 (Appendix).
- 1866 The general *catch-all* and menagerie....of all the family litter.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Little Foxes,' p. 27. (N.E.D.)

**Catch-dog.** See quotation.

- 1860 Mr. Hamlet says at the South you cannot get runaways without blood-hounds and *catch-dogs*. Southern gentlemen will not descend to hunt negroes.—Mr. Van Wyck of N.Y., June 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 436, Appendix.

**Catch on.** To apprehend, to grasp the point.

- 1884 "He Didn't *Catch On* to the Pronunciation."—Head-line in *Cambridge (Mass.) Tribune*, July 18. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 The managers of the *Boston Globe* have a faculty of *catching on*, as the boys say.—*Peabody Reporter*, n.d. (Farmer).
- a.1894 "Blame my skin ef the men folks weren't a darned sight oftener in my grocery, sittin' on barrils an' histin' in corn-juice, than ever any of you be here." "Ye don't *catch on*," returned Wynbrook.—F. Bret Harte, 'Old Prosper's Mother.'

**Cat-haul.** See quot. 1816.

- 1816 What is the most ludicrous, but horrid, the *cat-haul*; that is, to fasten a slave down flatwise upon the ground, with stakes and cords, and then to take a huge fierce tom-cat by the tail backward, and haul him down along the screeching wretch's bare back, with his claws clinging into the quick all the way.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 79 (Boston, 1824).

**Cat-haul—contd.**

1840 The Anti-Slavery Almanac for 1840 is filled up with pictures, such as white people of the South branding slaves,—hunting slaves with dogs and guns,—*cat-hauling* slaves, &c.—Mr. Benton in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 99 (Appendix).

1844-7 I saw a slave punished by *cat-hauling*.—*Chambers's Misc.*, cxlix. 17. (N.E.D.)

**Cats and clay.** See quot. 1848. This mode of building was introduced by Scottish immigrants.

1756 The cottage was built of timber stoops, and what we call *cat and clay walls*.—Mrs. Calderwood's Journal (N.E.D.).

1848 [He resided] in the same original log cabin, which in course of time acquired a roof, a puncheon floor below, and a clapboard roof above, a small square window without glass, and a chimney carried up with "*cats and clay*" to the height of the ridge-pole. These "*cats and clay*" were pieces of small poles, well embedded in mortar.—Dr. D. Drake, 'Pioneer Life in Kentucky,' p. 20 (Cincinnati, 1870).

1889 They were also called *dirt and stick chimneys*: see Phelan's 'Hist. of Tennessee,' p. 25 (Boston).

**Cats and Dogs.** "To pay in cats and dogs" is to pay, not in cash, but in inconvenient or useless commodities.

**Cat-stick.** A small stick suitable for the game of "cat."

1867 An honest cord in Jethro still would fail  
By a good foot upon the Deacon's scale;  
And, more to abate the price, his gimlet eye  
Would pierce to *cat-sticks* that none else could spy.  
J. R. Lowell, 'Fitz Adam's Story.'

**Catting.** Going after cat-fish.

1834 I'm jist now like I've been at times when I've been out *catting*.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' ii. 217 (N.Y.).

**Cattycornered.** Diagonally opposite or across. Shropshire, Lancashire, and Leicester Dialect. N.E.D., s.v. 'CATER.'

1836 One of that class....who, when compelled to share their bed with another, lie in that engrossing position called "*catty-cornered*."—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 196.

1843 Two strings diagonally fastened, or, as he better understood it, "*kattekorner'd* like."—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 261.

1847 [When the bear] got putty cloast, he walked round *cate-cornered* like.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 190.

a.1854 —All the cris-crossings, meanderings, trianglings, and *catty-cornerings* [of a dance].—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 79.

1896 Let's take this *catecornered* cut through here.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 88.

**Caucus.** A meeting of politicians in order to settle their combined plan of action. Hence to caucus, caucussing, house-caucus, &c. See *Notes and Queries*, particularly Series Five and Six. The word has been referred (see 1841) to a caulker's meeting held in Boston, 1770; but "the *caucus club*" is mentioned by John Adams seven years earlier: see N.E.D. See also quot. 1774.

- 1774 Mr. Samuel Adams conferred with Mr. Warren of Plymouth upon the necessity of giving into spirited measures, and then said: "Do you keep the committee in play, and I will go and make a *caucus* against the evening; and do you meet me." Note: the word *caucus*, and its derivative *caucusing*, are often used in Boston. The last answers much to what we style parliamenteering or electioneering . . . . The word is not of novel invention. More than fifty years ago, Mr. Samuel Adams's father, and twenty others, one or two from the north end of the town where the ship business is carried on, used to meet, make a *caucus*, and lay their plans for introducing certain persons into places of trust and power.—W. Gordon, 'Hist. Am. Revolution,' i. 365 (Lond., 1788).
- 1799 It was said that a Tory *caucus* was held some nights ago at Mr. Craick's lodging.—*The Aurora* (Phila.), Jan. 8.
- 1800 The bill was discussed at the *Caucus* on Wednesday evening.—*Id.*, Feb. 19.
- 1800 The *Caucusses* are now carried on more cautiously than heretofore—they now assume the character of tea and card parties.—*Id.*, March 29.
- 1800 They would recommend that the [Congressional] library be divided into several small apartments, for the purpose of holding *Sub-Caucusses*.—*Id.*, May 10.
- 1800 *Ross*. Join the *Caucus*, we shall meet presently. *Gunn*. Pray what does *Caucus* come from? I have often thought of it and looked in Bailey's Dictionary.—*Id.*, June 4.
- 1802 —Whose meetings, *Cacusses* (*sic*), plots, and stratagems are not so secret as the junto may vainly imagine.—'Letters to Alexander Hamilton,' p. 9 (N.Y.).
- 1802 —Treasonable night *Caucusses*, which it is certain are frequently held in New York.—*Id.*, p. 11.
- 1806 Would they not have assembled in *Caucusses*, and borne testimony against such destructive proceedings?—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Intelligencer*, June 10: from *Boston Chronicle*.
- 1811 The electioneering *caucussing* will be over, and Mr. Madison still the man of the people.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 18.
- 1813 I advanced up to a *caucus* of gentlemen standing in the middle of the room.—*The Stranger*, Oct. 9 (Albany, N.Y.).
- 1816 It is said that a *caucus* at Washington is to be *counter-caucussed*.—*Mass. Spy*, May 1.
- 1817 Every individual of the *Primary Caucus* may justly feel himself offended.—*Boston Weekly Messenger*, Nov. 13.



**Caucus—contd.**

- 1818 The defeated party complain of the corrupt influence of "*Caucus*." I have often enquired the meaning of this term, or of the nature of the power exercised, but I have not received any satisfactory information. An American writer says it is "a cant term for those private meetings which are held by the political parties previous to elections, for the purpose of agreeing upon candidates." . . . . [A man is quoted as saying]: "Only mind, I tell you, Adams never can be president; for he will not be able to do anything with *Caucus*."—H. B. Fearon, '*Sketches of America*,' p. 321 (Lond.).
- 1820 The libel on the Convention, which charged them with *caucusing* for the principal offices of the State.—*St. Louis Enquirer*, July 19.
- 1820 The *caucus* have met and met again, and determined upon what shall be done in Missouri.—*Id.*, July 26.
- 1821 [Our cousin's] bandboxes and wardrobes have been the subject of much curiosity and secret *caucussing* among my girls.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 17: from *The Ploughboy*.
- 1823 I went in the evening to the Town-Hall, to *Caucus*, a grand political meeting of thousands of the mobocracy.—W. Faux, '*Memorable Days*,' p. 28 (Lond.).
- 1823 CAUCUS vs. CAUCUS. Andrew Gregg is nominated by the People's *Caucus* as Governor of Pennsylvania, in opposition to the unheard of candidate of the Legislative *Caucus*, John Andrew Shulze.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, June 20.
- 1824 A tavern is a little republic, where you may *caucus* and nominate, and vote for yourself without a dissenting voice.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 14: from the *Portsmouth Journal*.
- 1824 There are 181 [members of Congress] who deem it inexpedient to meet in *Caucus*.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, March 13.
- 1824 Madam *Caucus* has ushered into the world another heir-apparent to the presidential chair.—*Id.*, March 13.
- 1835 In *caucus* assembled, it was agreed that a favorable opportunity was now presented to wreak their spite upon poor Hill.—'*Biog. of Isaac Hill*,' p. 46 (Concord, N.H.).
- 1835 Legislative *caucuses* [said Mr. Hill] should be considered as no further binding than as they express the popular sentiment.—*Id.*, p. 58.
- 1836 Congressional *caucuses* were for a long time practised during the protracted contests for power between the old republican and federal parties. The practice was introduced for the purpose of concentrating public sentiment upon a single individual, to secure the triumph of the principles of the party, which might be lost by division. All *caucuses*, conventions, or meetings, of the dominant power, have had the same object in view.—Mr. Garland of Virginia in the House of Representatives, April 1: *Cong. Globe*, p. 258 (Appendix).



**Caucus**—*contd.*

1841 The *Knickerbocker Magazine*, xviii. 185 (Sept.), refers *caucus* to the caulker's meetings held in Boston in 1770.

1888 *House-caucus*. — Bryce's 'American Commonwealth.' (N.E.D.)

**Cause.** Because. English examples, 1556–1682 (N.E.D.).

Much used by children and illiterate people in the U.S.

1798 [He] said so to make fun of me, *cause* I was a Jarzyman.—*The Aurora* (Phila.), Dec. 13.

1816 *Cause* you've got 20, or 30,000 dollars, you call it a glorious treaty.—*Mass. Spy*, May 1.

1856 Do you eat johnny cake? '*cause* if you don't I'll cut some wheat bread.—*Widow Bedott Papers*, No. 7.

1884 *Harper's Magazine*. (N.E.D.)

**Caution, a.** An example: usually in a ludicrous sense.

1834 The way I'll lick you will be *a caution* to the balance of your family.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, iii. 35 (Jan.).

1835 The number of little children [at Erie, &c.] is, as they say in the West, *a caution*.—'Life on the Lakes,' i. 51 (N.Y., 1836).

1837 The way the heels of politicians are tripped up now-a-days is *a caution* to the weathercocks of all parties.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Dec. 29, p. 2/1.

1838 He did not hesitate to declare that the way in which he would "use up" his opponent, when they got on the stump, would be *a caution* to yankee pedagogues in all coming time.—B. Drake, 'Tales, &c.,' p. 80 (Cincinnati).

1839 Off we hied to the prairie, and the way the feathers flew was *a caution*.—John Plumbe, 'Sketches in Iowa, &c.,' p. 56 (St. Louis).

1840 The way Mrs. N. rolls up her eyes when the English are mentioned is certainly *a caution*.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 259.

1842 The way it stormed was *a caution* to our little dog Moses.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Oct. 20.

1844 The way that factory at the Masonic Hall turns out the chickens [by steam heat] is *a caution* to "biddies."—*Id.*, Sept. 9.

1845 They mounted their nags, and the way they cleared was *a caution* to Crockett.—P. P. Pratt, Account of his escape: *The Prophet* (N.Y.), Feb. 8.

1846 The way we went it was *a caution* to any thing short of locomotive doin's.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.,' p. 123 (Phila.).

1846 The way [the bear] walked at me with his two fore legs was *a caution* to slow dogs.—*Id.*, p. 138.

1846 When I did git out of site, the way I did sail was *a caution* to turtles and all other slow varmint. —*Id.*, p. 88.

1848 The pace [the mare] took down the hill was certainly *a caution* to snails.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 158 (Phila.).

**Caution, a—contd.**

- a.1849 You ought to see me sleep sometimes—the way I take it easy is *a caution* to children.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 242.
- 1850 [Negroes, &c.] were vociferating for cargo in tones that were *a caution* to ourang-outangs.—Theodore T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Region,' p. 9 (N.Y.).
- 1850 She took off her shoe, and the way a number ten brogan commenced givin a hoss particular Moses were *a caution* to hoss-flesh.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 52 (Phila.).
- 1851 The way he squalled, rolled, kicked, puked, snorted, and sailed into the air, was *a caution* to old women on three legs.—'An Arkansaw Doctor,' p. 151 (Phila.).
- 1862 The rapid way with which the eatables disappeared was *a caution* to the beholder.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, April 26.
- 1862 We'll have a banyan breakfast, but our appetite for dinner will be *a caution* to alligators.—*Harper's Weekly*, June 7.

**Cave.** See quotation.

- 1812 Leads (or loads) are the smaller fissures that connect with the larger, which are called by the miners *caves*.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Views of Louisiana,' p. 148.

**Cave in.** (lit.) To collapse.

- 1764 Nor was he missed till he had been buried an Hour, when the People found the Well *caved in*.—*Boston Evening Post*, Jan. 30.
- 1796 The cellars are walled with brick....to prevent the loose sand from *caving in*.—Morse, 'Am. Geography,' i. 398. (N.E.D.)
- 1809 Mr. Benanuel Bucklin was killed by the *caving in* of a fountain which he was stoning.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 25.
- 1827 The wall below him *caved in*, and he was carried to the bottom.—*Id.*, July 25: from the *Newark Eagle*.
- 1829 The sides of the pit which they had made began to *cave in*.—*Id.*, Aug. 25: from the *N.Y. Comml. Advertiser*.
- 1832 The heavy rains caused the banks of the trenches to *cave in* upon them.—Williamson's 'History of Maine,' ii. 115.
- 1857 An especially uncomfortable chair with a *caving-in* seat and rickety back was assigned to me.—T. B. Gunn, 'New York Boarding Houses,' p. 98.

**Cave in.** (fig.) To yield, to collapse physically or morally.

- 1837-40 He warn't a goin' to *cave in* that way.—'Sam Slick,' p. 55. (N.E.D.)
- 1848 The South-Western and Western Locos, it is thought, will *cave in*.—*N.Y. Tribune*, March 4 (Bartlett).
- 1848 Bimeby the old hardshell *caved in* for want of breth.—'Jones's Fight,' p. 30 (Phila.).
- 1850 When northern territory was the question, at the first growl of the British lion the South "*caved in*."—Mr. Van Dyke of N.J., House of Repr., March 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 323, Appendix.

**Cave in—contd.**

- 1852 The result of [this movement] will be a universal "*caving in*" upon the part of Southern Whigs to the support of General Scott.—Mr. Fitch of Indiana, the same, May 17: *id.*, p. 1385.
- 1853 It goes agin my grit for Hardscrabble to *cave in* to Dogtown.—'Life Scenes,' p. 43.
- a.1853 Another half year has *caved in*,—collapsed into eternity.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 196.
- 1854 He'd seen a feller *cave in*, and come out as cow'd as a whipt spaniel.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 86 (N.Y.).
- 1856 Both these worthy gentlemen, to use the language of their conquerors, *caved in*.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' chap. liv.
- 1856 One never knew whether to laugh, or to *cave in* to dignity, when she thus arose.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 505 (Nov.).
- 1857 Here the preacher *caved in*, completely done up.—*Id.*, xlix. 276 (March).
- 1857 His patience and his temper at last *caved in*.—S. H. Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 94.
- 1859 You might just as well "*cave in*" first as last.—J. G. Holland, 'Titcomb's Letters,' p. 141.

**Cave in.** (act.) To beat in, to crush in.

- 1857 He would feel like *caving my head in*, if he knew.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 278 (March).

**Cavort.** To prance about. See quot. 1840. Probably a corruption of *curvet*.

- 1834 Government's bought their land, and it's wrong for them to be *cavorting* round quiet people's houses any more.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' ii. 28 (Lond., 1835).
- 1840 He galloped this way, then that, and then the other; spurred his horse to one group of citizens, then to another; then dashed off at full speed, as if fleeing from danger; and, suddenly checking his horse, returned first in a pace, then in a trot, and then in a canter. While he was performing these various evolutions, he cursed, swore, whooped, screamed, and tossed himself in every attitude which man could assume on horseback. In short, he *cavorted* most magnanimously (a term which, in our tongue, expressed all that I have described, and a little more,) and seemed to be setting all creation at defiance.—A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 23.
- 1840 That ar man he tooks up a dornick, and made a heap of *cavortins*.—*Daily Pennant* (St. Louis), June 18.
- 1845 She better not come a *cavortin'* bout me with any of her carryins on.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 178.
- 1847 I ain't a fellow to *covort* (*sic*) or make a fuss.—*Oregon Spectator*, Jan. 7.
- 1848 In about a minit he cum agin, cusin [cussing] and *cavortin* enuff to sink the boat.—'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 110<sup>r</sup> (Phila.).

**Cavort**—*contd.*

- 1854 Wiggins was "*cavorting* in the upper regions," as Turtle called it.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 108.
- 1856 They go *cavorting* out, honey-fuggling their consciences.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 286 (Sept.).
- 1861 *Cavort* round the country on horseback.—*Harper's Weekly*, Oct. 5.
- 1866 Tip then informed me how the Yankees did come on a raid, and *cavorted* about, and how the ladies let down all the valuables in the well, except the baby.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 107.
- 1869 [The Bedouins] were *cavorting* around on old cowbait horses, and spearing imaginary enemies.—Mark Twain, 'New Pilgrim's Progress,' chap. xx.
- 1882 Ker had whaled away, Bliss had sounded his nasal E flat, and Merrick had snorted and *cavorted* all around the case, but none of them had touched the evidence.—*Washington Critic*, Sept. 7 (Star-Route cases).

**Cayuse.** A native pony in the Western country.

- 1857 Davis and Monnastes advertise that they can do "all manner of wrought and cast work, from a Steam Engine and Boiler down to Shooing a 'Cultus' *Cayuse* Horse."—*Oregon Weekly Times*, January.
- 1869 The native horses become singularly skilled in "*bucking*," and there are few riders who can keep the saddle or make them yield to the lines. Twice our *kiyuse* broke nearly out of the harness.... The *kiyuse* is never perfectly tamed. .... The Western man always rides at a lope, and sometimes at a gallop, and when his pony is worn down he is turned out to grass, and a fresh one brought in, who usually "bucks" vigorously when he is called into service.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 302.
- 1909 You will go on horse back, provided the sure-footed little *cayuse* doesn't object, and refrains from "bucking you off."—*N. Y. Ev. Post*, Feb. 18.

**Centennial State, The.** Colorado, admitted into the Union in 1876.

- 1881 The "*Centennial State*" [might] have been a quiet pastoral or agricultural territory.—*Macmillan's Mag.*, xlv. 233. (N.E.D.)

**Centre-table.** A piece of furniture once much used for the display of vases, large books, &c., and sometimes blocking up the parlour.

- 185 ) I purchased some beautiful books for the *centre-table*.—D. G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' i. 228 (1852).
- 1868 [He] remained standing by the *centre-table*.—Holme Lee, 'B. Godfrey,' p. 195. (N.E.D.)

**Certain-sure.** Very sure. A reduplication used by Southey, 1804, but obs. in England. N.E.D.

- 1852 If he succeeded, his escape was *sartin-sure*.—H. C. Watson, 'Nights in a Block-House,' p. 81 (Phila.).
- 1856 The old man would *certain sure* get riled, and I don't want no ill feelin's twixt him and me.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 432 (Oct.).

**Certain-sure—contd.**

- 1862 Thet night, I tell ye, she looked some '  
 She seem'd to 've gut a new soul.  
 For she felt *sartin-sure* he'd come,  
 Down to her very shoe-sole.  
 James R. Lowell, 'The Courtin'.'

**Chain-man.** One who carries a surveyor's chain.

- 1810 Chadwick was acting as *chainman*.—*The Repertory* (Boston), April 6.

**Chair.** A light carriage or chaise. Examples 1753–1821, N.E.D.  
 Obs. in England, and quite or nearly so in the U.S.

- 1781 There is a good *chair road* from Savannah.—Advt., *Royal Georgia Gazette*, Jan. 4.

- 1816 Instead of a chaise [the Virginians] use a *chair*, which is is very light, but unsocial, as they are usually single.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 64 (Boston, 1824).

- 1833 Merchants and professional gentlemen were quite content to keep a one-horse *chair*.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of Philadelphia,' p. 131.

**Chair-box.** A receptacle forming part of a chaise.

- 1788 The little trunk was tied behind the chair, and the *chair-box* moreover crammed with trumpery. — *American Museum*, iii. 120.

**Chair-post.** The leg of a chair (?).

- 1788 The snake was about the bigness of a common *chair-post*. — *American Museum*, iv. 519.

**Chaise-trimmer.** Sterne has *chaise-vamper*, 1765. (N.E.D.)

- 1819 Wanted, a Journeyman *Chaise-Trimmer*.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, May 12.

**Chalk, a long.** A great deal.

- 1837–40 Haliburton. (N.E.D.)

- 1857 I tell you, it will make yer har ston' up worser'n hog's bristles, *a long chalk*.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 328 (Oct.).

**Chalk, the.** To come up to the chalk is to "toe the line," to meet all requirements.

- 1839 Cases have happened in which some have not come "*up to the chalk*," in the language of another gentleman,—have not followed in the footsteps of the party leaders. Mr. Saltonstall of Mass., House of Representatives, Dec. 21: *Cong. Globe*, p. 187 (Appendix). The gentleman from Pennsylvania [insinuated] that I was afraid to come up to what I believe he called the "scratch." (Some one here said aloud that his language was "walk up to *the chalk*.")—Mr. Bell of Tennessee, in the same debate.

**Chance.** A quantity. **A smart chance.** A large quantity. See also **RIGHT SMART**.

- 1819 A considerable quantity is expressed by *a smart chance*; and our hostess at Madison said there was *a smart chance* of Yankees in that village.—David Thomas, 'Travels,' p. 230 (Auburn, N.Y.).
- 1833 "There's *a smart chance* of cigars there in the bar, stranger if you'd try some of them," said one of the *hooshiers*.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 219 (Lond., 1835).
- 1833 I thought I would somehow go and buy *a smart chance* of a nigger-boy to help me along.—J. K. Paulding, 'The Banks of the Ohio,' ii. 86 (Lond.).
- 1833 There was *a right smart chance* of sickness when she came to the settlement.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 88 (Phila.).
- 1833 There's *a powerful chance* of the biggest bull-frogs you ever see, down in the slash yonder.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 152 (Phila.).
- 1833 [He said] it took *a powerful chance* of truck to feed such a heap of folks.—'Legends of the West,' p. 9.
- 1836 See Appendix XXV.
- 1840 Oh dear me, they gin [the sick woman] *a powerful chance* o' truck.—A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 193.
- 1842 I consider you *a very smart chance* of a boy, I do indeed.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Jan. 15.
- 1845 There's *a mighty chance* of lawyers' lies in the papers.—Cornelius Mathews, i. 140 ('A Court Scene in Georgia').
- 1846 Mr. Douglass, she observed, you have got *a mighty small chance* of legs.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 54 (Phila.).
- 1849 [The Georgian] strode *a right smart chance* of a critter, that couldn't be beat in "them diggins," if you'd believe him.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxiv. 113 (Aug.).
- 1851 Supposin' . . . *a smart chance* of redskins were after the bar.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 103.
- 1851 [I had] *a pretty smart chance* of a stick at my fingers' ends.—*Id.*, p. 123.
- 1853 Such *a powerful right smart chance* of learning as you have.—*Daily Morning Herald* (St. Louis), April 11.
- 1855 [The place is] on the other road, and *a smart roundabout chance* to get to it.—W. G. Simms, 'Border Beagles,' p. 310 (N.Y.).
- 1855 We played at Manchester to *a good smart chance* of a house.—*Id.*, p. 313.
- 1855 So out we goes to the paw-paw thicket, and pealed (*sic*) *a a right peart chance* o' bark.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, May 12.

**Chaparral or chapparal.** Sp. See quot. 1848.

- 1846 Mr. Brockenbrough of Florida feared that a Mexican *chapparel* might be quite as formidable a place of refuge for an enemy as a Florida swamp.—House of Representatives, May 13 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 814.
- 1846 The brigade advanced across the plain, and took position in the *chaparral*.—Report of Lieut.-Col. Belknap to Gen. Taylor, May 15 : *id.*, p. 680 (Appendix).
- 1848 The holl on't 's mud an' prickly pears, with here an' there a *chapparal*. 'Biglow Papers,' 1st Series, No. 2.
- 1848 Two lakes, each of which was bounded by *chapparal*, a thicket of cactus, meschete, and various spiny shrubs, peculiar to the country, and almost impenetrable.—'Taylor and his Campaigns,' p. 44 (Phila.).
- 1848 [We] stood with our fresh-primed pieces on the edge of the *chaparral*.—C. W. Webber, 'Old Hicks the Guide,' p. 143 (N.Y.).
- 1850 Bayard Taylor. (N.E.D.)
- 1860 [The bear] had not gone far before it was heard to fall heavily in a thick *chapparal*.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, lvi. 537 (Nov.).
- 1888 The *chapparral* bushes defeated us frequently, in making such good hiding-places for the hare.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 204.

**Charlie on the spot.** A punctual person ; one to be depended on.

- 1805 I mean to have my Sunday shirt  
Wash'd and mended, early,  
And I will be *upon the spot*.  
As punctual as "Charley."  
*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 20.
- 1835 Did I not tell you that I would not vote on the appropriation bill, but when you came to anything else I was "Charlie on the spot" ?—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 112 (Phila.).

**Charlotte.** A confection somewhat resembling an apple dumpling, but lighter.

- 1793 The *charlotte* brown, within whose crusty sides  
A belly soft the pulpy apple hides.  
Joel Barlow, 'The Hasty-Pudding,' p. 8 (Hallowell, 1815).
- 1860 *Charlottes*, caky externally, pulpy within.—O. W. Holmes, 'Elsie Venner,' p. 90. (N.E.D.)

**Chebacco-boat.** A kind of fishing-boat.

- 1837 Fishing schooners and *chebacco boats*.—Hawthorne, 'Twice-told Tales,' ii. 92. (N.E.D.)
- 1859 I recollect a little stream in the county of Essex, in Massachusetts, where, some fifty years ago, they used to manufacture a sort of little boat, called *chebacco boat*.—Mr. Hale of N. H., U.S. Senate, Feb. 22 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1210.

\*.\* Chebacco was the Indian name of Essex, Massachusetts.



**Check.** A ticket given by a railway, an express company, &c., as a temporary receipt for a piece of baggage : see quot. 1861. Hence, to check baggage, to give up one's checks, &c. Tickets used in theatres were called "checks" a century ago :

Hark ! the check-taker moody silence breaks,  
And, bawling "Pit full," gives the check he takes.

'Rejected Addresses.'

1847 They will deny the receipt of a *check*, and exact the fare again.—*Illustrated London News*, Sept. 4. (N.E.D.)

1848 —See he, Sir, give me yer *checks* for yer baggage, and I'll take ye to the Exchange Hotel.—'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 58 (Phila.).

1848 When they axed me for my *checks*, I was deaf and dumb. . . . I gin him my *checks*, and in he went for my trunks.—*Id.*, p. 109.

1860 Douglas men, will you follow Little Sandy Rives into Black Republicanism, for he has taken his ticket and *checked his baggage through*?—*Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 6, p. 1/5.

1860 The Senator would like to know what we have got to do with *checking baggage*. I think we have everything to do with the public's comfort and convenience.—Mr. Cameron of Pa., U.S. Senate, Dec. 21 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 179.

1861 The whole of my luggage, except a large bag, was taken charge of by a man at the New York side of the ferry, who "*checked it through*" to the capital, giving me a slip of brass with a number corresponding with a brass ticket for each piece.—W. H. Russell, 'My Diary, North and South,' March 25.

18— "How Jim Bludso *passed in his checks*,  
The night of the Prairie Belle.

[Mr. De Vere is in error as to the meaning. Bludso's journey was ended. He died, and, dying, "passed in his checks."] See also Appendix IX.

**Checks and balances.** A phrase much used with regard to the provisions of the American Constitution.

1796 Magical logic ; or, a *check* without a *balance*.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, March 25 (Phila.).

1796 The necessity of *reciprocal checks* in the exercise of political power.—'Farewell Address' of George Washington, Sept. 19.

1796 The *checked and balanced* government that Mr. Adams so much admires.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Nov. 5.

1799 A government composed of those elective *checks and balances* which constitute that of the United States.—*The Aurora* (Phila.), March 29.

1800 Dr. Franklin was decidedly averse to the modern doctrine of *checks and balances*.—*Id.*, Feb. 18.

1800 The *checks and balances* which are so much extolled in the British constitution.—*Id.*, July 15.

1821 [These departments] they have made co-ordinate, *checking and balancing* one another.—Thomas Jefferson to Judge Roane, June 27.



**Checkers.** Draughtsmen, Draughts.

- 1825 They think I go there to play *checkers* with him.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 385. (N.E.D.)
- 1870 Out of blocks, thread-spools, cards, and *checkers*, he will build his pyramid with the gravity of Palladio.—Emerson, vi. 88. (N.E.D.)
- 1883 He had built up a little tower of *checkermen*.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 278. (N.E.D.)
- 1910 It seems inconceivable that two men can be kept steadily employed the year round making *checkers*. Yet that is what is done in a mill at Bethel. The average output of *checkers* from the mill is 800 barrels. It has been as high as 1,000 and down to 600, but 800 is the average. This does not sound very large, but when the figures are worked out it is found to be a lot. In every barrel shipped there are 30,000 *checkers* of the ordinary size, while in 800 barrels there are 28,800,000, or 1,200,000 sets of twenty-four *checkers* each. That is to say, with the output of this Maine mill 2,400,000 persons could be playing *checkers* at the same time.—*Kennebec (Me.) Journal*, April.

\*.\* The *scaccarium* or chequer-board is of great antiquity, but draughtsmen are rarely called checkers in the United Kingdom.

**Cherokee.** See quotation.

- 1771 An old fashioned lady, with a foretop of hair *Cherokeed*, to imitate the Indian dress.—*Mass. Spy*, March 21.

**Cherokee rose.** *Rosa levigata*.

- 1838 The piercing thorn of the *Cherokee rose* renders it impenetrable by cattle.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 227.

- 1846 See VIRGINIA FENCE.

**Chess** See quot. 1836. *Chess-grass*, 1736. N.E.D.

- 1805 None of them came up, except three small blades just before winter, which I suppose are *chess*.—*The Balance*, Oct. 15, p. 332.
- 1820 He affirmed that *Chess* was a distinct grain, as well as wheat or oats, and that, wherever *Chess* sprung up, it had been sown with the last or a previous crop.—Letter on Chess, in *The Ploughboy*, May 20 (Albany, N.Y.).
- 1821 On the spot where the *chess* had been thrown, there sprang up a new crop of *chess*, as evenly spread as if it had been sown.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' ii. 44f.
- 1836 *Cheat* and *chess*, which is the name of a weed, or species of broom, resembling wheat, and very frequently mingled with it, . . . is totally different from wheat. *Chess* grows in pannicles, and wheat in spikes.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, May 21.
- 1839 Popular Errors. . . . That there is no danger in sowing *chess* with wheat, as *chess* does not grow. The truth is, *chess* does grow, and is a hardier plant than wheat.—'Farmer's Monthly Visitor,' i. 11.

**Chess—contd.**

1842 My wheat was unaccountably *chessy*, though I turned water upon it, and kept it moist all summer.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 194.

1843 Or, save us the jest,  
As *chess* among sheaves,  
That speck on the "Globe,"  
Mr. John C. Rives.  
Nauvoo (Ill.) Neighbor, Aug. 23.

**Chestnut.** An old joke : a "Joe Miller."

1886 Minnie P. will give £1,000 to any one who will submit to her an idea for legitimate advertising....*Chestnut* ideas not wanted.—*Dram. Rev.*, March 27, 86/2. (N.E.D., which gives examples 1887-8.)

\*.\* Mr. Halkett Lord (*Notes and Queries*, 7 S. vii. 52) heard the word used in Brown's theatrical chop-house, New York, in 1882. The attempt on the same page to connect it with the Fr. *marron* is purely conjectural.

**Chewing gum.** This is substantially the same as the "Mouth Glue" mentioned in Baret's *Alvearie*, 1573-80. (N.E.D.) John Bate gave a recipe for it in 1635: "How to make *mouth glew*. Take Isinglasse, and steep it in water untill such time as you may easily pull it to peeces, put it into a glasse or pot well leaded, and set it *in balneo*, that is, in a pot of water on the fire, there let it remaine untill all or the most part of it be dissolved, then strain it thorow a wide haire sieve, while it is hot, upon another course and close haire sieve, and when it is cold it will be like a thick gelly. ....If you would have it of a dainty smell, and aromaticall taste, put into it a little cinamon bruised, and a little marjerom, and rosemary flowers, while it is dissolving, and if you please a small quantity of brown sugarcandy, to give it a sweetish smatch."—'Mysteries of Nature and Art,' Lond., p. 248. It may be that the tradition of this domestic manufacture crossed the Atlantic in the 17th century.

1836 The down east girls have a droll way of amusing themselves, viz., by *chewing spruce gum*, mingled as it frequently is with dirt, dead mosquitoes, and swamp flies.—*Phila. Pub. Ledger*, May 21.

1842 I pleaded till she seemed to see  
The burning words I said ;  
With murmuring lip and moistened eye  
She bent her fairy head,  
Till to my own her cheek was pressed,  
—Hope's sunny wing I saw,—  
And asked me if I didn't want  
A piece of gum to chew.

Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, April 11.

1850 And why, my good Sir, is *gum* more base in a woman than tobacco in a man ?—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 158.

**Chewing gum—contd.**

- 1864 I am addicted to no bad habits, such as....*chewing Burgundy pitch*, and carrying a smelling-bottle,.... Burgundy pitch, two chaws for a cent, *Chewing gum*, cent a stick.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxix. 268, 293.
- 1882 These things are the "*chewing-gum* of literature."—*Chicago Advance*, April 6. (N.E.D.)

**Chichado, Chickadee.** The Black-cap Titmouse.

- 1850 Not even a frog or a *chichado* was heard.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 98.
- 1854 The *chickadee* lisps amid the evergreens.—Thoreau, 'Walden,' iv. 124. (N.E.D.)
- a.1854 Far distant sounds the hidden *chickadee*  
Close at my side.  
J. R. Lowell, 'An Indian-Summer Reverie.'

- 1891 [She] was a small, thin old woman, alert and active as a *chickadee*.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Huckleberries,' p. 316 (Boston).

**Chickasaw rose.** The same as the cherokee rose (?)

- 1835 The "*chickasaw rose*," which is a beautiful hedge thorn, grows luxuriantly [in Mississippi].—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 108.

**Chicken corn.** See quotation.

- 1856 Chinese sugar cane is nothing more than what we call *chicken corn* down in Georgia, and is of no sort of value.—Mr. Seward of Georgia, House of Repr., April 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 960.

**Chicken fixings.** Chickens with dressing, &c.

- 1838 [It is said] that the first inquiry made of the guest by the [Illinois] village landlord is: "Well, stran-ger, what'll ye take? wheat-bread and *chicken fixens*, or corn-bread and common doins?" by the latter being signified bacon.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 72 (N.Y.).
- 1845 Our traveller forgot his surprise at the diminutive area of the Texan capital, over a good supper of "corn-dodgers" and *chicken-fixins*.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' i. 164.
- 1847 Flour doins an' *chicken fixens*, an' four oncommon fattest big gobblers rosted I ever seed.—'Billy Warwick's Wedding,' p. 104.
- 1847 If you want extra doins and *chicken fixings*, you can have 'em for three bits.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxix. 534 (June).
- 1847 The remainder of the table was filled up with some warmed-up tough old hen, called *chicken fixings*.—Rubio, 'Rambles,' p. 19 (Bartlett).
- 1848 The backwoodsman [must have] his "*chicken-fixins*" and "shanty-cake."—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxi. 223 (March).
- 1859 Tell Sal to knock over a chicken or two, and get out some flour, and have some flour-doins and *chicken-fixins* for the stranger.—*Id.*, liii. 317 (March).

**Chickeree.** See quot. 1849.

1849 The larger red squirrel or *chickeree*, sometimes called the Hudson Bay squirrel.—Thoreau, 'Week at Concord River,' p. 206. (N.E.D.)

a.1853 The *chickeree* shells his nut in quietness.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 171.

**China-tree.** The Azedarac.

1839 After dark we went to the *China-tree* in the lane.—'History of V. A. Stewart,' p. 65 (N.Y.).

1847 Shaded by *China-trees* . . . stood the houses of planters.—Longfellow, 'Evangeline.' (N.E.D.)

1861 The *China-trees* are beautiful, and abundant about the dwellings [of Montgomery, Ala.].—J. B. Jones, 'A Rebel War Clerk's Diary,' i. 44 (Phila., 1866).

**Chinch-bug.** See quot. 1705. *Chink* is used by Fletcher ab. 1625 (N.E.D.). The word is now used to designate a wheat destroying insect of the genus *Blissus*. (Later quotations.)

1705 *Chinches* are a sort of flat Bug, which lurks in the Bedsteads and Bedding, and disturbs People's Rest a-nights.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' iv. 66.

1888 The grasshopper is unknown [in Arkansas]; likewise the *chinch-bug*.—'Little Rock Democrat,' n.d. (Farmer).

1910 The scales for weighing diamonds are so delicate that an eyelash will turn the balances, but that is nothing to the scales of American prices, which are so delicate that the yell of a crop killer who has discovered a *chintz bug* down in Texas will swing the balances in Chicago.—*Omaha Bee* (March).

**Chin-fly.** A fly unknown to the dictionaries.

1867 You were brought up on a farm, were you not ? said Mr. Lincoln ; then you know what a *chin-fly* is . . . Now if Mr. — has a presidential *chin-fly* biting him, I'm not going to knock it off, if it only makes his department go.—F. B. Carpenter, 'Six Months at the White House,' p. 130.

**Chink, chinking.** See quot. 1848.

1818 The intervals between the logs "*chunked*" and "mudded." —M. Birkbeck, 'Letters from Illinois,' p. 34.  
[For fuller quotation see CLAP-BOARD.]

1822 Sir W. Scott's 'Nigel' (N.E.D.).

1829 They knew better than he did how to "*daub and chink*" a cabin.—T. Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 10 (Boston).

1840 [In dressing up as Daniel Lambert,] Billy required the aid of at least eight pillows, with some extra *chinking*, as we say in Georgia, to give him a bulk corresponding with this enormous weight.—A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 181.

**Chink, chinking—contd.**

- 1848 The spaces between the logs of the house were closed by *chinking*, or small blocks of wood riding upon each other, and afterward daubed and plastered with tempered clay or mud....The chimney was *chinked*, daubed, and plastered similar to the house, except that the plastering was chiefly inside, and quite thick.—Monette, 'History of the Mississippi Valley,' ii. 5.
- 1853 The space between the outside boards and the inside laths was *chinked* with mud.—*Knick. Mag.*, xli. 330 (April).
- 1859 The crevices between the logs were *chinked* with pieces of split wood.—Mrs. Duniway, 'Capt. Gray's Company,' p. 19 (Portland, Oregon).
- 1880 A log cabin about eighteen by twenty feet, with *chinked* cracks, clapboard roof, and puncheon floor.—Peter H. Burnett, 'Recollections of an Old Pioneer,' p. 29 (N.Y.).

**Chinkapin.** A kind of nut growing in a bur like a chestnut.

- 1624 [These fruits the Virginians] call *Chechinquamins*, which they esteeme a great daintie.—Capt. John Smith, 'Virginia,' p. 353. (N.E.D.)
- 1705 Even these places are stored with Chesnuts, *Chinkapins*, Acorns, &c.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' ii. 8.
- 1705 *Chinkapins* have a Taste something like a Chesnut, and grow in a Husk or Bur.—*Id.*, ii. 16.
- 1775 Smallest fagus (or dwarf chesnut) having the fruit in bunches, and contained singly in a prickly pod, vulgo *chinkapin*.—Bernard Romans, 'Florida,' p. 19.
- 1799 She remembered *chinquimines*, chesnuts, walnuts, &c., where the principal buildings in Philadelphia now stand.—*Farmer's Register* (Greensburg, Pa.), Nov. 30.
- 1801 Queen Mab, who was born in the kernel of a *chinkapin*.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, July 18.
- 1816 The *chinquipin-bushes*, which in the fall bear a nut little inferior to the filbert.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 61 (Boston, 1824).
- 1818 It is named the *castanea pumila* in William Darby's 'Emigrant's Guide,' p. 80.
- 1826 Bogue Chitto, Bogue Falaya, denoting the river of laurels, or [of] *chincopins*.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 317.
- 1827 *Chinquapin*. *Castanea nana*,—dry ridges, edge of hammocks, nuts fine.—John L. Williams, 'View of West Florida,' p. 40 (Phila.).
- 1838 Look at Cornelia's face. It is as brown as a *chinquapin*.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 47.
- 1845 If that one on this side didn't have whiskers, I hope I may never see *chinkapin time* agin, dadfetch me!—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 65 (Phila.).
- 1851 A deep box, containing "black" and "shag bark" walnuts, chesnuts, *chinquapins*, and hazel-nuts.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxvii. 183 (Feb.).

**Chinkapin—contd.**

1855 The tasseled *chinkapin* perfumes the hill.—A. B. Meek, 'The Red Eagle' (N.Y.).

1856 Whether it was eggs, or berries, or *chincapins*, or what.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' chap. xvi.

**Chin-music.** Idle talk, chatter.

1857 Whenever he attempts to amuse them with his *chin-music*, they expect that he will say something funny.—George A. Smith at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 2 : 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 101.

1872 [We want] somebody to jerk a little *chin-music* for us.—Mark Twain, 'Innocents at Home,' ii. (N.E.D.)

**Chinook Jargon.** A conglomerate language made up by the traders on the Columbia River eighty or ninety years ago, for the purpose of talking with the Chinook and other Indians. Several words are still now and then used by old settlers in their mutual talk. See CULTUS, CUMTUX, TUMTUM.

**Chinook Wind.** A warm moist wind from the south-west, blowing on the Oregon and Washington Coast.

1884 Our cold weather....is tempered by the "*Chinook*" wind.—Corr., *Boston Journal*, March 6. (N.E.D.)

1888 The frequent *chinooks* have settled the snow [in the Yellowstone Park] faster than it fell.—*Forest and Stream*, March 15 (Farmer).

1910 The avalanche was caused by the unprecedented snows, which had been loosened by the *chinook*, or warm westerly wind.—Despatch to *The Standard*, March 1.

**Chip in.** To join the conversation ; to unite in an effort ; to contribute money.

a.1870 Just you *chip in*,—

Say you knew Flynn.

F. Bret Harte, 'In the Tunnel.' (N.E.D.)

1888 We refuse to *chip in* for a church, but will contribute \$10 to help get Lampas Jake, the revivalist, down here.—*Detroit Free Press*, Oct. (Farmer).

**Chip on shoulder.** One who seeks a quarrel is said to go about with a chip on his shoulder, daring others to knock it off.

1840 Jonathan's blood is "pretty considerable riz" anyhow, and it wouldn't take so much as *knocking a chip off a boy's shoulder* to make it a darnationed sight riz-er.—*Daily Pennant* (St. Louis), May 9.

1855 Leland, in his last issue, struts out with a *chip on his shoulder*, and dares Bush to knock it off.—*Weekly Oregonian*, March 17.

1882 You drop all of this stuff about Conkling....He is not prancing around with a *chip on his shoulder*, challenging all mankind to battle.—Letter of S. W. Dorsey to President-elect Garfield, in the papers of Aug. 13-14. [Probably spurious. The alleged date is Feb. 7, 1881.]

**Chip on shoulder—contd.**

- 1890 They were the class of men who carry *the chip balanced very lightly on the shoulder*, and rather seek than avoid its jostling.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 117.
- 1901 [They saw] that, while I had no "*chip on my shoulder*," yet I would yank up the first man who ventured to neglect the least point of etiquette.—Admiral R. D. Evans, 'A Sailor's Log,' p. 264.

**Chip-bird.**

- 1824 The destruction of a robin, *chip*, blue, or black bird is not all.—*Mass. Yeoman*, April 28.

**Chipmonk, Chipmunk.** See quot. 1855.

- 1842 Watching the vagaries of the little *chipmonk*, as he glanced from branch to branch.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life' (Bartlett).
- 1854 The *chipmunk*, on the shingly shagbark's bough,  
Now saws, now lists with downward eye and ear.  
J. R. Lowell, 'An Indian-Summer Reverie.'
- a.1855 This is generally known as the striped squirrel, on account of his having two streaks that run along his back, commencing at the neck, and ending somewhere below zero.—'Essay on the Chipmonk,' Dow, Jun., iv. 231.
- 1861 An' here I be ez lively ez a *chipmunk* on a wall.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 1.

**Chipped Beef.** Beef cut very thin, and dried; sometimes served warm with sauce.

- 1819 No vapid tea, or cold toast, and greasy butter, and *chipped meat*.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 18: from the *National Advocate*.
- 1859 Such waffles, *chipped beef*, sweetmeats, melon, &c.—*Knick. Mag.*, liv. 406 (Oct.).

**Chipper.** Active, cheerful, lively.

- 1837-40 [She looked] as bloomin' as a rose, and as *chipper* as a canary bird.—Haliburton, 'The Clockmaker,' p. 236. (N.E.D.)
- 1871 She was jest as *chirk and chipper* as a wren, a wearin' her little sun-bunnet.—Mrs. Stowe, 'The Sullivan Looking Glass.'
- 1878 Sim's ben to college, and he's pretty smart and *chipper*.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Poganuc People,' chap. iii.

**Chirk.** Cheerful. Webster's Dict., 1828. Probably (see quot. 1824) connected with *chirp*, *chirpy*.

- 1824 It is not uncommon to see thirty or forty women and children comfortably stowed away in one of the large covered canal boats, as *chirp* as a flock of blackbirds.—*New Bedford Mercury*, May 28.
- 1843 She is not very *chirk*, but more *chirkier* than she has been; all our folks appear more *chirkier* than they really feel, in order to *chirk* her up. [Given as an antiquated rustic expression.].—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, i. 26 (Feb.).



**Chirk**—*contd.*

- 1857 *Chirk* and lively we both were.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 38 (Jan.).
- 1857 The old man gave us a good feed, and told us to look as *chirk* and lively as we could.—*Id.*, xlix. 182 (Feb.).
- 1871 See CHIPPER, *supra*.
- 1878 I didn't feel real *cherk* this week, so 't I didn't go to sewin' s'ciety.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' chap. xxvii.

**Chirk**, v. To encourage, to cheer up.

- 1856 It 'll *chirk* you up and dew you good to go out into socierty again.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 7.
- 1878 Ef there's a mortal thing I can do to help ye, or *chirk* ye up, I want to do it right off.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' chap. xii.

**Chirpy**. Cheerful.

- 1838 Somehow it makes me *chirpy* to think of Roseland, though the young folks were obstreperous.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 53.

**Chit**. The small end of a cigar. Very uncommon.

- 1846 But, Doctor, you have not bitten off the *chit*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xii. 71.

**Chock**. A small obstacle.

- 1861 Gov. Letcher was almost universally execrated for the *chocks* he had thrown under the car of secession and Southern independence.—J. B. Jones, 'A Rebel War Clerk's Diary,' i. 15 (Phila., 1866).

**Choke off**. To silence, to put a stop to. Cobbett, 1818. N.E.D.

- 1841 When did modern Democracy ever give up an office? When she was *choked off*, and not otherwise.—Mr. Arnold of Tenn., House of Repr., Dec. 23: *Cong. Globe*, p. 55.
- 1848 I spent a couple of hours in the House, amused by watching....our Representatives. The operation of "*choking off*" a speaker was very funny, and reminded me of the lawless conduct of fighting schoolboys.—*N.Y. Express*, Feb. 21 (Bartlett).
- 1910 Had the effort to *choke off* Mr. Burleson's motion for the deposition of Speaker Cannon succeeded, had the House adjourned immediately after passing the Norris resolution, there would have been a breathing-spell.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 21.

**Choke-bow**. A word of doubtful meaning.

- 1811 Strayed, a Bay Mare;....had on a *Choke Bow*, tied with a string.—*Mass. Spy*, June 26.

**Choke-cherry**. See quot. 1796.

- 1796 Dwarf or *Choak Cherry*. (*Prunus Canadensis*.)—Morse, 'Am. Geography,' i. 188. (N.E.D.)
- 1834 I found I was freezing, and stopped in a cliff of rocks, and made a little fire of *choke-cherry* bushes. I could put the whole of it in my hat.—Albert Pike, 'Sketches, &c.,' p. 28 (Boston).





**Chowder.** A substantial soup of clams or fish. Apparently from Fr. *Chaudière*. See *Notes and Queries*, 4 S. iv., v., vii. "Chowder" is the name of Tabitha's dog in 'Humphry Clinker.'

- 1762 My head sings and simmers like a pot of *chowder*.—Smollett, 'L. Greaves,' xvii. (N.E.D.)
- 1836 [The Mayor] is off to Long Branch, to enjoy *otium cum dignitate*, or in other parlance eat *chowder* and drink claret.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Aug. 2.
- 1838 I was duly initiated into the mysteries and merits of "a *chowder*." We had "*clam chowder*" and "*fish chowder*."—E. C. Wines, 'A Trip to Boston,' p. 79.
- 1840 The *chowder-builder* and the poet must alike be born.—'Discursive Thoughts on Chowder,' *Knickerbocker Mag.*, xvi. 26 (July). Also pp. 123, 452, same vol.
- 1840 All is fish that comes to his net, and goes to make up the grand *chowder* of his political reputation.—*Arcturus*, i. 11 (Dec.).
- 1846 Such glowing encomiums on pandowdy and pumpkin-pie! Such affectionate mention of *clam-chowder*, roast-veal, and baked-beans!—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xi. 235.
- 1848 We hate *chowder-parties*, we do.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xvi. 380.
- 1853 In the Olympia (W.T.) *Columbian*, Aug. 6, notice is taken of a "*chowder-party*" on Puget Sound, in the sloop "Sarah Stone."
- 1855 I profess to be a judge of *chowders*, sherries, and wines generally.—'Fudge Doings,' i. 29.
- 1855       The half of the band that still survives  
          Comes up, with long moustaches and knives,  
          Determined to mince the Captain to *chowder*,  
          So soon as it's known he's out of powder.  
                                    *Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlv. 337 (April).
- 1874 The collateral occupation of "*running a chowder mill*," as the phrase goes, [on Coney Island].—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 309 (Sept.).
- 1888 He took her into a saloon, ordered a *chowder* for her, and left her.—*Galveston News*, n.d. (Farmer).

**Chuck-a-luck.** A game of chance.

- 1857 Our planter takes more corn-juice, and, excepting a little dash of "*chuck-a-luck*," tempts fortune no farther.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlix. 525 (May).

**Chucker.** A frozen oyster. Term used in New Jersey. (Century Dict.)

**Chucker.** See quotations.

- 1760 *Chucker*. A small pebble used in the game of "chucks."—'Annual Register,' p. 82. (N.E.D.)
- 1833 They pitched "*chuckers*," a kind of pewter pennies cast by the boys themselves.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of Philadelphia,' p. 153.

**Chuck-will's-widow.** The goat-sucker.

1823 The king-fisher, *chuck-will's-widow*, and other birds occurred.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Expedition,' i. 49 (Phila.).

1828 Noticed in Audubon's 'Ornithology,' i. 273.

**Chunk.** An extemporized and-iron.

1821 In the room of andirons, many families make use of what are here called *chunks*, which are the two brands of a large forestick, or billets of wood cut on purpose for this use.—Zerah Hawley, 'Tour' [of Ohio, &c.], Jan. 21 (New Haven, 1822, p. 44).

**Chunk.** A worthless horse. Rare.

1829 There were to be merry races of asses and "*chunks*," by persons who volunteered as the Merry-Andrews of the meeting.... Away scamper *chunks*, donkeys, mules, and negroes.—T. Flint, 'George Mason,' pp. 108, 111 (Boston).

**Chunk.** A bit, as in "a chunk of a fight."

1833 He played loo, drank deep, and on proper occasions took *a small chunk of a fight*.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 46 (Phila.).

1833 In them days, if a man got into *a chunk of a fight* with his neighbour, a lawyer would clear him for half a dozen muskrat skins.—*Id.*, p. 50.

1856 Some have characterized [the beating of Charles Sumner by Preston S. Brooks] as a mere "*chunk of a fight*"; others as an assault and battery.—Mr. Etheridge of Tennessee, House of Repr., July 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 822, Appendix.

**Chunk.** See quotation.

1856 [In the factory at Nyack,] the tub is placed over a "*chunk*," and turned off outside in a few moments, and hooped. It is next placed in a hollow *chunk*, and turned out perfectly smooth inside.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 634 (June).

**Chunk, v.** See quotation.

1857 She handed her entrapped escort a stone. "Here, Sammy, *chunk* your foot out with this."—D. H. Strother, 'Virginia Illustrated,' p. 204 (N.Y.).

**Chunker.** A canal-boat which carries coal.

1894 (N.J.) 'Dialect Notes,' i. 329.

**Chunky.** Stocky. (Notice *junk* for *chunk* in quot. 1807.)

1776 DESERTED.... Matthew Murray, a well set *chunky* fellow.—*Maryland Journal*, Aug. 21.

1777 Ran away, from on board the Ship Defence, William Parsons,.... *chunky*, well made, &c.—*Id.*, July 29.

1786 He is about 5 feet 6 inches high, 20 years of age, fat and *chunky*.—*Id.*, July 7.

1787 Ran away,.... Negro Jupiter, 24 years of age, thick and *chunky made*, round-faced, &c.—*Id.*, Dec. 21.

**Chunky**—*contd.*

- 1789 Ran away, a black Country-born Negro, middling *chunky*.—*Id.*, Aug. 28.
- 1807 A broad, thick *junk* of a man, the perfect image of the squab fiend.—*The Balance*, Nov. 17, p. 362.
- 1833 Dennie, who has been called the American Addison, once amused himself by criticising an advertisement of a man who had stolen "a *chunky* horse"; and with such a lesson before our eyes we should hardly venture upon a *chunky* young man for a hero.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 12 (Phila.).

**Church.** There was in colonial days, and for many years after the Revolution, an unwillingness to call meeting-houses churches. The Presbyterians were the first to adopt a custom which is now general in the U.S.

- 1770 Sunday morning the Rev. Mr. Whitefield [preached] at Christ's Church; and this evening [May 17] he preaches at *the Presbyterian Church*.—*Mass. Gazette*, May 28.
- 1770 Philadelphia, June 7. The Rev. Mr. Whitefield preached at *the Archstreet Presbyterian Church* on Friday night last.—*Id.*, June 18.
- 1774 A sermon, preached at *the Presbyterian Church* in Boston, advertised for sale.—*Id.*, Feb. 14.
- 1774 They arrived at the *English Presbyterian Church* [in Albany, N.Y.,] when the congregation were going in to the forenoon service.—*Id.*, Feb. 14.
- 1790 Noah Webster comments on the extended use of this word: noting that the Presbyterians in "Newyork" and Baltimore have already adopted it.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 7.
- 1821 [In Hartford, Conn., are] *Four Churches*, two Presbyterian, one Episcopal, and one Baptist.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 234.
- 1821 The new brick *Methodist Church* in New-Haven was blown entirely down.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 12. (But in an account of the same tempest the *Connecticut Mirror* mentions the destruction of "the new *Methodist Meeting-house*" in New-haven.)
- 1823 A marriage in the "second *Methodist chapel*" is noticed in the *Nantucket Inquirer*, Oct. 28.
- 1825 The "*church*," as he called it repeatedly, was a homely piece of architecture. It was a school-house on six days of the week, and a meeting-house on the seventh.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 124.
- 1830 "The editor of the *Christian Watchman*," says the *Vermont Chronicle*, "dislikes the practice of calling meeting-houses *churches*." We never call them so. Let him join us, in defiance of fashion.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 20.

**Church-burners.** A name applied to the "know-nothing" party.

1856 I never use offensive language to anybody. I did not assail the American party as "*Church-burners*."—Mr. Florence of Pa., House of Repr., Jan. 9: *Cong. Globe*, p. 187.

**Churchism.** The system and doctrine of the Church of England.

1768 The appellant's idea of religion, essentially different from *churchism*.—Charles Chauncy, 'Letter,' p. 61. (N.E.D.)

1787 They were to pay on a religious score, for promoting the rapacious designs of *churchism*.—*Maryland Journal*, Sept. 25.

**Church-social.** A "tea-meeting."

1888 [To] tackle a wash-tub as quickly as a *church-social*.—*Milnor (Dak.) Teller*, May 18. (N.E.D.)

**Chute.** A natural or artificial flume or rapid water-way.

1806 Notwithstanding the low state of the water, and imminent peril of the passage, I determined on taking the *chute* without farther delay.—Thomas Ashe, 'Travels in America,' ii. 271 (Lond., 1808).

1807 Col. Lord, owner of the ship John Atkinson, bore down for the head grand *shoot*, and passed handsomely by.—*The Balance*, June 9, p. 183.

1819 The Indian *Chute*, which is not passable in low water; the Kentucky *Chute*, which is only passable in high water; and the Middle *Chute*, which at any time is the best.—McMurtrie's 'Louisville,' p. 14: quoted in Hall's 'Letters from the West,' p. 185.

1823 The water is dashed and broken upon the rocks and uneven bed of the channel, called the Indian *chute*.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Expedition,' i. 26 (Phila.).

1838 [This is] called the Indian *Chute*, to distinguish it from two others, called the Middle *Chute* and the Kentucky *Chute*.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 18 (N.Y.).

1839 In the afternoon we passed John Day's river, and encamped about sunset at the "*shoots*."—J. K. Townsend, 'Narrative,' p. 251 (Phila.).

**Chute, v.** To run logs down a "chute."

1884 Logs are often *chuted* down from the lofty ridges.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 872. (N.E.D.)

**Cider-cart.** See quot. 1876.

1876 The passage of a *cider-cart* (a barrel on wheels) was a rare and exciting occurrence.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' iii. 17.

1878 The nearest approach to the sutler's wagon was the "*cider-cart*" of some old darkey.—*Id.*, vi. 5.

**Cineh.** A tight girth. Hence an advantage over the one cinched.  
Sp. *cincha*.

1872 I leaned down and felt of the *cinch*, to see if it had slipped.  
—C. King, 'Sierra Nevada,' p. 119. (N.E.D.)

1888 The saddle was secured by a *cinch* or girth of cows' hair, which hard riders found a great help in keeping [it] firm.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 212.

1888 Black and blue thinks the Dwyers have a *cinch* on both the great events.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 2 (Farmer).

1909 You have a *cinch* such as no man ever possessed.—*Chicago Evening Post*, Feb.

**Cineh.** v. To fasten with a cinch....Hence, to have a man "in a tight place."

1875 A man is *cinched*=he is hurt in a mining transaction. (San Francisco localism.)—*Scribner's Mag.*, p. 277. (N.E.D.)

1878 Saddles are carefully set, and mules "*cinched*" with mountain girths, eight inches wide, until they can hardly breathe.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 156.

1878 With all set, and everything tightly "*cinched*," we took the start with guide in front.—*Id.*, p. 152.

**Cipher, cipher out.** To lay out plans; to estimate the consequences of what one does, or of what happens.

1825 Let each man [figuratively] take a slate and *cipher it out*. —John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 172.

1837-40 The constable was *cyphering* a good while how he should catch him.—Haliburton, 'The Clockmaker,' p. 18. (N.E.D.)

1860 Still *Cyphering*. The *Examiner* continues *cyphering* Mr. Hunter's vote in Virginia.—*Richmond Enquirer*, April 12, p. 1/5.

1862 I've made my ch'ice, an' *ciphered out*, from all I see an' heard. 'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.

**Circuit-rider.** An itinerant preacher, usually of the Methodist or Baptist persuasion.

1838 A little, portly, red-faced man, in linsey-woolsey and a broad-brimmed hat, saluted me, and announced himself a Baptist *circuit-rider*.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 60 (N.Y.).

1845 Your uncle Moses was a *circuit-rider* for upwards of five years.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 16 (Phila.).

1850 I have to do as all other preachers, especially Methodist *circuit-riders*,—eat chickens....These same *circuit-riders* undergo more toil and privation for less pay than the ministers of any other denomination.—James Weir, 'Lonz Powers,' i. 153, 156 (Phila.).

1853 Judicial circuits, a court house and jail, Methodist circuits and *circuit-riders*, and meeting-houses, were established.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlii. 587 (Dec.).

1858 There am three varmints what kin charm wimmin an' birds,—the *suckit* [*circuit*] *rider*, the cat, an' the black snake.—'Sut Lovengood's Chest Story': *Olympia* (W.T.) *Pioneer*, Sept. 4.

**Circular saw.** A revolving disc edged saw-wise.

1821 The *circular saw* is a recent invention. The Shakers, at their village in Watervliet, near Albany, have this in very excellent use and great perfection. [Also] a *circular buz*, of thin, soft sheet iron, six inches in diameter, which cuts the hardest steel almost with the same ease that it could cut tallow. . . . I saw it in operation in July 1817. . . . An ingenious young Shaker, Freegift Wells, constructed the machine which I saw.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 26: from the *Ballston Farmer*.

1852 As easily as a *circular-saw* cuts a plank.—C. W. Hoskyns, 'Talpa,' p. 178. (N.E.D.)

**Circumstance, a.** "Anything to speak of."

1836 [The new hotel] will be a smasher, to which the Astor House will be *no circumstance*.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Nov. 16.

1838 The race [races] of John Gilpin or of Alderman Purdy were *mere circumstances* to ours.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 145.

a.1840 See Appendix I.

1842 The scoring which David Paul Brown, Esq., gave W. B. R. in the General Sessions was *hardly a circumstance* to that which he gave him yesterday.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Feb. 24.

1848 Aligator aint *no suckemstance* to [the abolitionists.] Em got horns like billy-gote, an' big red eyes like ball ob fire.—'Jones's Fight,' p. 17 (*Phila.*).

1852 I'm "*a remote circumstance*," I know, and can't read or write pen-writing.—*Knickerbocker*, xl. 389 (Nov.).

1854 You'd better think of all the pretty girls you ever seed, all at once, and then it won't be *a circumstance*. Elvira takes the rag off everything there's about these parts.—*Id.*, xlv. 576 (Dec.).

1855 [The amount for which I am sued] will swallow me and all my substance, and you must rub that down to *a mere sarcumstance*.—W. G. Simms, 'Border Beagles,' p. 72 (N.Y.).

1856 To be beaten by such *a mere circumstance* of a gal-child.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 394: also pp. 552-3.

1857 I've travelled on the cars in my day, but that kind of going wasn't *a circumstance* to the way we tore along.—S. H. Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 62.

1859 Imagine a dozen boats starting out from the same house for an afternoon's row. The confusion and trouble at Riker's wouldn't be *a circumstance* to it.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxiv. 223.

1867 Versoovious and the critter ain't *a circumstans*.—Artemus Ward, 'The Showman's Courtship.'



**Citizenize.** To make a citizen. The first quotation goes back to T. Pickering, ab. 1811. (N.E.D.)

1841 To *citizenize* is to make a citizen, to admit to the rights and privileges of a citizen; and [Webster] gives as an example, that "Talleyrand was *citizenized* in Pennsylvania, when there in the form of an emigrant."—Mr. Young of Ill., U.S. Senate, Feb. 1: *Cong. Globe*, p. 103, App.

1843 No man can be *citizenized* in this corner of the world.—*Blackwood*, liv. 325. (N.E.D.)

1850 An act of Congress [was] as necessary to *citizenize* the one as the other.—Mr. Savage of Tenn., House of Repr., May 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 559, App.

1850 [If Massachusetts should] see fit to *citizenize* monkeys, it will furnish no reason why we should allow them such rights in the streets of Charleston.—Mr. McQueen of S. Carolina, the same: *Id.*, p. 738, App.

**City of Brotherly Love.** Philadelphia.

1799 A great wonder appeared in the city which is called *Brotherly Love*.—*The Aurora* (Phila.), Sept. 28.

1835 At Philadelphia, "*the city of Brotherly Love*," you are struck with the regularity of the streets.—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' i. 27 (Lond.).

1839 I was now heartily sick of the *City of Brotherly Love*.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' i. 171 (Phila.).

1842 Captain Du Solle is rowing us of Gotham up Salt Creek, for the edification of the broad brims of *the City of Brotherly Love*.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, April 11.

1847 So here am I, in *the City of Brotherly Love*, at last again.—Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 175 (Phila.).

1850 *The city of brotherly love* seems still to be disposed to keep up its usual amusements.—*Evening Picayune*, San Francisco, Nov. 30, p. 1/5.

**City of Magnificent Distances.** Washington.

1835 At Washington, "*the city of Magnificent Distances*," visit the lions; ascend to the capitol, &c.—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' i. 28 (Lond.).

1836 That city "*so magnificent in distances*," as Monsieur Serrurier said of it.—Beverly Tucker, 'The Partisan Leader,' p. 384 (N.Y., 1861).

1858 I remember when Washington, instead of being regarded as a great capital, was, by those who were unable to see its future, ridiculed as *a city of magnificent distances*,—a mockery of a city.—Mr. Seward of New York, U.S. Senate, May 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 375, App.

**City of Monuments, or the Monumental City.** Baltimore.

1834 The distant rumbling of wheels upon the pavements announced that they were soon to enter *the monumental city*.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 32 (N.Y.).

1835 Baltimore, "*the City of Monuments*," snugly sheltered within its deep bay.—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' i. 27.



**City of Monuments**—*contd.*

- 1836 Any six gentlemen in the *city of monuments*.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, May 24. (For fuller quotation see BANTER.)
- 1861 [Mr. Killinger] complimented Maryland. He gazed with pride on the memorials of patriotism which adorn her *Monumental City*.—O. J. Victor, 'History of the Southern Rebellion,' i. 313.
- 1863 The "*Monumental City*" quickly became a city of deserted marts.—*Id.*, ii. 111.
- 1863 A class of rowdies whose reign in Baltimore had given the "*Monumental City*" an unenviable reputation for disorder.—*Id.*, ii. 145.

**Clabber.** Otherwise bonny-clabber. Sc. (Webster's Dict., 1828.)

- 1838 When I told Aunt Patty that the Southern folks ate *clabber*, she rolled up her eyes.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 52.

**Clam-bake.** A feast on clams and fish: see quotations.

- 1840 July 4. At a mass-meeting in Rhode Island, a *clam-bake* and chowder were prepared for nearly 10,000 persons. (See Bartlett.)
- 1842 The Great *Clam Bake* the other day in Rhode Island went off with immense eclat.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Sept. 3.
- 1843 They did not like [John Tyler] because he had such a man as Daniel Webster for his prime minister—a man who came out and declared on Long Island, at a *clambake*, and in Virginia....that he was a Jeffersonian Democrat.—Mr. Gordon of New York in the House of Repr., Jan. 5: *Cong. Globe*, p. 125.
- 1845 "The First *Clam Bake*":—a poem by "Everpoint."—St. Louis *Reveille*, Dec. 29.
- 1860 Senator Douglas attended a mammoth *clam bake* at Rocky Point, R.I., on Thursday last.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Aug. 7, p. 2/6.
- 1888 [They all] talk that way when they go on a *clam-bake* or a....chowder excursion.—N.Y. *Herald*, March 25 (Farmer).

**Clam-trap.** The mouth. A piece of slang corresponding to "potato-trap."

- 1800 Mister Speaker's decisions, Judge Cooper's *clam trap*, &c. (?clap trap).—*The Aurora*, Phila., March 24.
- 1800 Otis shut up his *clam trap*—like Otis—sly dog.—*Id.*, April 8.
- 1825 Shet your *clam*, our David. You never seed, &c.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 143.

**Clap-board.** A weather-board.

- 1632 Mr. Oldham had a small house made all of *clapboards* (i.e. of cloven boards, without timber).—Winthrop, 'Journal,' i. 87 (Bartlett).
- 1641 No man shall sell *clabords* of five feet in length for more than three shillings per hundred.—'Records of Salisbury, Mass.' (N.E.D.)

**Clap-board**—*contd.*

- 1705 [Filling the Ship up] with Cedar and *Clap-board*.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' p. 18 (Lond.).
- 1767 The lightning fell in a perpendicular direction, ripping the *clapboarding* and plaistering as it fell.—*Boston Evening Post*, June 15.
- 1767 Wanted, at the Halifax Careening-Yard, . . . 27 Thousand *Clapboards*.—*Id.*, Dec. —.
- 1770 The greatest part of the boards and *clapboards* on the west end are also burnt off.—*Id.*, July 23.
- 1775 They say that [the rats] have ate up the sills already, and they must now go upon the *clapboards*.—Letter from Peter Oliver, at Boston, to Elisha Hutchinson, June 10.
- 1790 Boards, shingles, *clapboards*, &c., [were] thrown to a considerable distance.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 12.
- 1799 The boards and *clapboards* were rent from the post which conducted the lightning.—*Id.*, n.d.
- 1806 To be sold, 2 thousand of shaved *clapboards*.—*Id.*, March 19.
- 1817 No chimney, but large intervals between the "*clapboards*" for the escape of the smoke.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 141 (Phila.).
- 1818 This cabin is built of round straight logs, about a foot in diameter, lying upon each other, and notched in the corners, forming a room 18 feet long by 16; the intervals between the logs "chunked," that is, filled in with slips of wood: and "mudded," that is, daubed with a plaister of mud;—a spacious chimney, built also of logs, stands like a bastion at one end; the roof is well covered with four hundred "*clap-boards*" of cleft oak, very much like the pales used in England for fencing parks.—M. Birkbeck, 'Letters from Illinois,' p. 34 (Phila.).
- 1823 They lie on leaves under a *clap-board* tent, or wooden umbrella.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 315.
- 1848 See CATS AND CLAY.

**Claw-hammer.** An evening dress coat; a "swallow-tail."

- 1869 [He was] arrayed in the pride of his heart, his beautiful *claw-hammer coat*.—Mark Twain, 'New Pilgrim's Progress,' chap. xvi.
- 1879 The tails of his *claw-hammer* coat drag on the ground.—Kingston, 'Australian Abroad,' p. 7. (N.E.D.)

**Clay-eater.** Certain "poor whites" in the South use a sort of semi-edible clay. The word is employed as a term of reproach and scorn.

- 1841 He was a little, dried up, withered atomy,—a jaundiced "sand-lapper" or "*clay-eater*" from the Wassamasaw country.—W. G. Simms, 'The Kinsmen,' i. 167 (Phila.).
- a.1860 See Bartlett.
- 1901 The terms "sand-hiller," "*clay-eater*," or "poor white trash," conveyed a terrible reproach, for even the negroes looked down upon them.—W. Pittenger, 'The Great Locomotive Chase,' p. 74 (Phila.).

**Clean out.** To demolish.

1812 Vaux's 'Flash Dictionary.' (N.E.D.)

1867 Our style of fighting being to pitch in, and *clean the enemy out, or be cleaned out*.—J. M. Crawford, 'Mosby and his Men,' p. 144 (N.Y.).

**Clean-cut, clear-cut.** Sharply defined. This may be American.

1876 The *clear-cut*, emphatic chant which makes a truth doubly telling in Scotch utterance. — George Eliot, 'Daniel Deronda,' i. 298. (N.E.D.)

1883 The *cleanest-cut* and the bravest Englishman on the temperance platform.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, Nov. 15. (N.E.D.)

1910 There is a perfectly *clear-cut* contrast between [these attitudes].—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Feb. 3.

1910 What is exhibited on a national scale and in a *clear-cut* way in this conspicuous instance.—*Id.*, Feb. 7.

1910 "Bitterness at Princeton. Wilson or West the *Clean-Cut* Issue at University."—Head-lines, *id.*, Feb. 14.

**Clear Grit.** The genuine article. The term was applied about the year 1872 in Upper Canada to the uncompromising partisans of George Brown and the *Toronto Globe*. A less ardent partisan explained to the present writer, "I'm a Grit, but I'm not a Clear Grit." [See also GRIT.]

1825 A chap who was *clear grit* for a tussle, any time.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 14.

1837 Do you want to buy any tooth powder? I've got some that's *clear grit*; none of your counterfeit stuff.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, March 6.

1837-40 If you get the *clear grit*, there is no mistake in it.—Haliburton, 'The Clockmaker,' xxxii. (N.E.D.)

1890 But wasn't that little Providence chap *clear grit*, though? —Haskins, 'Argonauts of California,' p. 335 (N.Y.).

**Clear out.** To decamp.

1824 On a table some types stood alone;  
I thought I'd see if they'd stick;  
I touched them;—they all tumbled down,  
And then I *cleared out* mighty quick.

*Woodstock (Vt.) Observer*, Feb. 24: from the *N.H. Patriot*.

1824 [They] persecuted me so far, that I was compelled to *clear out*.—*The Microscope* (Albany), May 29.

1825 On the night before he "*cleared out*," he shot a young catamount.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 254.

1825 Like many a hero before him, he "*cleared out*."—*Id.*, ii. 151. (N.E.D.)

**Clearing.** A cleared space in the woods.

1817 I could judge of the extent of the *clearing*, if I saw the people.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 140 (Phila.).

1820 Immediately below us is a *clearing* which seems to have been made some years ago, and near it another of more recent origin.—Hall's 'Letters from the West,' p. 191 (Lond.).

1823 J. F. Cooper. (N.E.D.)

**Clearing—contd.**

1834 Situated in a small *clearing* appeared a large rude double-logged cabin.—*Knicker. Mag.*, iii. 32 (Jan.).

1835 The streets [in New York, on "moving day,"] looked like a *clearing* in my part of the world.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 48 (Phila.).

**Clear-listing.** Approving claims for payment, patent-grants, &c., as being clear of any flaw.

1910 The Cunningham claims were ordered "*clear listed*" for patent.... Glavis said the "*clear-listing*" was revoked.... [He stated] that the claims had been "*clear-listed*" from the investigating division for patent. [Alaska land cases.]—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 31.

**Clever.** (Seldom used in the English sense.) Obliging, kind pleasant, amiable,.

1768 Or else how does it come to pass  
That Wedlock Joys increase so fast ?  
That Young and Old, the Cross and *Clever*,  
Join hands, and live so well together ?  
*Boston Post-Boy*, June 20.

1773 Then come, put the jorum about,  
And let us be merry and *clever*.  
'She Stoops to Conquer.' (N.E.D.)

1793 The ladies vowed he was a *clever* fellow ; the rakes called him a high buck, for he was spunky, and cut a dash.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 26 : from the *Eagle*.

1804 *Clever* in New England means honest, conscientious.—W. Austin, 'Lett. London,' 68n. (N.E.D.) This meaning is uncommon.

1805 The Yankee declares I am "a plaguy likely fellow," and the Englishman is no less positive that I am "a right *clever* fellow."—*Balt. Ev. Post*, May 30, p. 2/3 : from the *N.Y. Commercial Advertiser*. [The editor adds, "This is not an Englishman's phrase."]

1815 I somehow did not feel quite *clever*, but hoped for the best.—*Mass. Spy*, June 14. [Here the meaning is "up to the mark." This also is uncommon.]

1818 See Boss.

1822 [Court of Oyer and Terminer, Philadelphia.] Question, Why, Sir, have you a prejudice against me ? Ans. Because neither you nor the other counsel have acted *clever* towards the Jury.—*Mass. Spy*, June 5.

1824 The Virginians use *clever* for intelligent ; whereas we use it for a kind of negative character, of weak intellect, but good disposition.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 82 (Boston).

1826 [Lewis Cass] is what we call in New England a *clever* fellow, good-natured, kind-hearted, amiable, and obliging.—Daniel Webster to George Ticknor, March 1 : 'Life,' i. 260 (1870).

**Clever**—*contd.*

- 1833 The word *clever*....has here no connexion with talent, and simply means pleasant or amiable. Thus a good-natured blockhead in the American vernacular is a *clever* man; and, having had this drilled into me, I foolishly imagined that all trouble, with regard to this word at least, was at an end. It was not long, however, before I heard of a gentleman having moved into a *clever* house, of another succeeding to a *clever* sum of money, of a third embarking in a *clever* ship, and making a *clever* voyage, with a *clever* cargo.—T. Hamilton, 'Men and Manners in America,' i. 233 (Blackwood).
- \*.\* The extended use of the word, illustrated in the latter sentence, is at least very uncommon now.
- 1835 I found him all sorts of a *clever* man.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 142 (Phila.).
- 1836 Welden the Magician holds forth at the American Museum, and is really very *clever* in his way.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Dec. 24.
- 1837 "*Clever* is hardly a name for you," said Diggs, using the word in its cis-Atlantic sense.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 169.
- 1837 See DIG.
- 1839 Mrs. G. was a *clever* woman, and it was a shame that she should be left to suffer so.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xiii. 421 (May).
- 1847 It makes me mad to hear *clever* scholars talk of the Iliad as a book of ballads.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxix. 473 (May).
- 1847 My associates were "*clever*" enough; but thoughtless, and full of frivolous sport. (Note.) The word *clever* is here used in the American sense of *amiable*.—'Life of Benjamin Lundy,' p. 15 (Phila.).
- 1848 See YANKEE.
- 1850 He was what we call in Kentucky "*a clever fellow*," which means a wild, frolicking, good-hearted, good-for-nothing chap, against whom there can be no positive charges of crime or meanness, but to whom it would not be advisable to loan money, or credit too largely, if you ever wish to be paid.—James Weir, 'Lonz Powers,' i. 34 (Phila.).
- 1852 This child, who perished by the fire,  
Her christen-name it was Sophia,  
Also her sis'er, Mary Ann,  
Their father was a *clever* man !  
*Yankee clever*, we suppose.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxix. 201 (Feb.).
- 1853 [The steamer Die Vernon] is the mail-boat, with a *clever* set of officers in charge.—*Daily Morning Herald* (St. Louis), June 30.
- 1855 It's five *mild* to the next house, and I reckon you'll hardly find 'em up when you get there; but they's *right clever*, and won't make no account of gittin' up, if they take you in.—E. W. Farnham, 'Life in Prairie-Land,' p. 365.

**Clever**—*contd.*

- 1861 Brown is a *clever* man, but he can't manage an hotel.—W. H. Russell, 'My Diary,' March 26 (1863).
- 1862 He was a very *clever* man, and used to do every thing for his naybors for nothin.—'Major Jack Downing,' June 18.
- 1866 He said he could as well carry a bushel as half a bushel, for it would only jest make a *clever* weight to balance him.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 332.
- 1867 The next morning Adjutant Cheatham of the 5th. Georgia gave me from his wardrobe a shirt, &c., which I considered very *clever* in one who had so poor a supply himself.—W. L. Goss, 'A Soldier's Story,' p. 251.
- 1878 You're as *clever* as a robin. I guess you've done me more good than the minister an' meetin' together.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' chap. xxvii.

**Clingstone.** See quotation 1705.

- 1705 The best sort cling to the Stone, and will not come off clear, which they call Plum-Nectarines, and Plum-Peaches, or *Cling-Stones*.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' iv. 78.
- 1837 [The grapes of the Ovino] taste much like a *clingstone* Peach.—John L. Williams, 'The Territory of Florida,' p. 99 (N.Y.).
- 1840 The firm-fleshed or *clingstone* peaches are preferred in America.—'Penny Cycl.' (N.E.D.)

**Cloud-burst.** An overpowering deluge of rain.

- 1821 This deluge, which they call *the bursting of a cloud*, took place in Oct., 1784.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iii. 249.
- 1881 [The village] was nearly annihilated by a water-spout or a *cloud-burst*.—*Chicago Times*, June 11. (N.E.D.)

**Coachee.** Obs. in England and in the U.S. The earlier examples of the word are American.

- 1796 He has for sale a compleat *Coachee*, with a coachman's seat and Venetian blinds all round.—*Gazette of the U.S.* (Phila.), Jan. 27.
- 1796 For Sale, a Light *Coachee* and harness, very little the worse for wear.—*The Aurora*, Nov. 9.
- 1800 The Baltimore *Coachee* will in future leave the Indian Queen and the Franklin Inn [at the hours named].—*Id.*, Oct. 25.
- 1801 A *Coachee*, with a pair of Horses and a careful Driver, to be hired by the day or week.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, Feb. 4.
- 1801 The horse was running in his *coachee* at that time.—*Id.*, April 4.
- 1805 [To let,] as handsome a *coachee*, and pair of horses, with a careful driver, as can be procured in town.—*Salem Register*, Nov. 1.
- 1818 The "Philadelphia and Lancaster *coachee*" is advertised.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, Jan. 21.

**Coast.** See quotation, 1835. Local.

1812 The *coast* may be said to begin at Pointe Coupée. From this to La Fourche, two thirds of the banks are perfectly cleared and highly cultivated ; from thence to New Orleans, a distance of near a hundred miles, the settlements present the appearance of a continued village.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Views of Louisiana,' p. 174 (1814).

1835 The banks of the Mississippi are termed "*the coast*," as far up the river as Baton Rouge. It is usual to say one lives *on the coast*, if he lives on the river shore.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 24n.

**Coast.** To glide down an ice-path on a "bob-sled." Hence COASTING. The path itself used to be called a COAST.

1775 Some of our School lads . . . improved the *coast* from Sherburn's Hill down to School Street . . . Their fathers before 'em had improved it as a *coast* from time immemorial.—Letter in 'Proceedings of the Mass. Historical Society,' 1865, p. 398. (N.E.D.)

1832 *Coasting* is another winter pastime, in which, as in many other games, the labor seems to be at least equal to the pleasure.—S. G. Goodrich, 'System of Universal Geography,' p. 201 (Boston).

1836 Skate, if you like ; "*coast*," if you are boy enough.—*Boston Pearl*, Jan. 9.

1854 New England ! aye, New England ! my glory and my boast !

Adown thy hills, when I's a boy, O how I used to *coast*.

Thy pleasant fields of living green, methinks I see them now,  
And I upon my father's farm a-riding horse to plow.

Thou art the land of liberty, of valleys, and of hills,

A land of men, where thought is free, of brooks and running rills.

'Tis there they keep Thanksgiving Days, and like to have them come ;

When the long circles cluster round, I wish I was to-hum.

*Springfield Republican*, n.d.

1909 *Coasting* is fun for everybody . . . In the frosty night, grown men and women fill the flying "bobs" that go whizzing down the icy incline, swift as any toboggan on the hills of Davos Platz or St. Moritz.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Jan. 28.

1909 As a consequence of a *coasting* accident, six professors and students were injured.—*Id.*, Feb. 18.

**Coatee.** A formation analogous to *bloodee*, *coachee*, *frockee*, *stickee*, &c., and fortunately obsolete.

1775 Reference in *Harper's Magazine*, 1883. (N.E.D.)

1788 Stolen . . . One great *Coatee* of light gray Coating.—*Maryland Journal*, Feb. 22.

1795 Had on when he went away an old Green *Coatee* and Trowsers.—Runaway advt., *Gazette of the U.S.*, Oct. 5.



**Coatee—contd.**

- 1800 Ran-away, a Negro Man named Isaac. He had on and took with him a home-made lincy *coattee*, a callico round-about jacket, two vestcoats, &c.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, Sept. 20.
- 1801 Ran away, an apprentice. Had on and took with him a claret coloured cloth coat, made in the Menonist fashion, a yellow nankeen *coattee*, &c.—*Id.*, Aug. 29.
- 1805 Ran-Away, a German indented servant, named Peter Hartline; . . . had on a dark coloured *coatee*. The *coatee* is a little discoloured in the back.—*Id.*, July 19.
- 1815 A young man dressed in a nankeen *coatee* and pantaloons.—*Boston Weekly Messenger*, Nov. 2.
- 1821 \$20 Reward for a runaway apprentice, who “took with him a blue *coattee* and pantaloons.”—*Pennsylvania (Harrisburg) Intelligencer*, Jan. 5.
- 1835 The young gentlemen [in New-Orleans] were dressed in elaborately embroidered *coatees*, and richly wrought frills.—Ingraham, ‘The South-West,’ i. 120.
- 1852 [He] made Sabbath *coatees* for his children of the worn out gowns of his wife.—“S.G.O.” in *The Times*, Nov. 12: ‘Letters,’ i. 388.

**Cob.** See CORN-COB.

**Cob Dollars, Cob Money.** See quotations.

- 1786 In one of the Desks they found Thirteen milled Dollars, . . . and a *Cobb Dollar*; the latter being a Counterfeit was thrown on the Floor.—*Maryland Journal*, March 14.
- 1789 The public are hereby cautioned against taking a certain kind of *cob-gold*, which is now in circulation, but which has been refused by the banks of New-York and Boston in consequence of its having been proved by the hydrostatic balance to be one third alloy. . . . These pieces, each of which weighs 17 penny-weights, may easily be distinguished from the true ones by their roughness, which is caused by the sand in which they are cast.—*Id.*, Jan. 2.
- 1865 Pieces of silver called *cob-money*.—Thoreau, ‘Cape Cod,’ p. 148 (N.E.D.)

**Cob-house.**

- 1818 In this country they build “*cob-houses*”; a “cob” is the interior part of a head of Indian corn, after the grains are stripped off; with these cobs, which are lying about everywhere, structures are raised by the little half-Indian brats, very much like our houses of cards.—Birkbeck, ‘Letters from Illinois,’ p. 90 (Phila.).
- 1830 The victim is chained to a stake, and a pile of combustible wood built up around him, in the form of a *cob-house*.—Description of a negro-burning in South Carolina, *Mass. Spy*, July 21: from the *Providence American*.
- 1852 See BACK-LOG.
- 1857 I see a number of little boys by the Tithing Office, building a *cob-house*.—Brigham Young, June 28: ‘Journal of Discourses,’ iv. 370.



**Cob-pipe.** One made from a corn-cob.

1857 My taciturn host took a *cob-pipe* down from a shelf over the fire-place.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 440 (Nov.).

1884, 1889. *Harper's Magazine*. (N.E.D.)

**Cockarouse.** See quotations.

1624 [They call their commander] Werowance or *Caucorouse*, which is Captaine.—John Smith, 'Virginia,' ii. 38.

1705 That man was counted a *Cockarouse*, or brave Fellow, [who would not lose his hold of a Sturgeon.]—Beverley, 'Virginia,' ii. 33.

1708, 1727–31. N.E.D.

**Cocked hat.** To knock any one into a cocked hat is to "use him up" completely.

1833 I told Tom I'd *knock him into a cocked-hat* if he said another word.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' i. 217 (Lond.).

1838 Not a few [were] *knocked clear into a cocked hat*.—B. Drake, 'Tales,' p. 92 (Cincinnati).

1840 Why pummel and beat over again that which is already beaten to a jelly, *jammed into a cocked hat*, and flung into the middle of next week?—Mr. Wick of Indiana, House of Repr., July 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 545.

1843 I had always disbelieved the vulgar saying about "*knocked into a cocked hat*."—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 62.

1848 It has completely *knocked us all into a cocked hat*.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 306 (1860).

1848 The very next election in Pennsylvania and Ohio gave [the "stationary Democracy"] such a storm as "*knocked them into a cocked hat*."—Mr. Root of Ohio, House of Repr., June 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 827.

1852 We will *knock* [the groggeries] *into a cocked hat*.—Ezra T. Benson, at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sept. 12: 'Journal of Discourses,' vi. 248.

1858 We knocked dat ere "Massa-do-nuthin" into a *cocked hat*.—*Knick. Mag.*, li. 154 (Feb.).

**Cockle-bur.**

1845 (Sept. 20.) Green grass, *cucklebur*, wild sunflower, pig-weed, &c.—Joel Palmer, 'Journal,' p. 59 (Cincinnati, 1847).

1866 N.E.D.

**Cockneyisms.** Some of these appear to have affected Philadelphia in the early part of the nineteenth century; and a few, which became more generally popular, are traceable, about 1840–1860, to the influence of Charles Dickens.

1799 Do you think I am going to stay here to have my throat cut, to be whipped to death, or *skivvered* [skewered] like a lark—No, no!—*The Aurora*, May 20.

1800 [In Philadelphia, Noah Webster] will find the London Cockneyisms flourish in perfection—veal—here converted into *weal*,—and wine into *vine*,—the hot-water-war he will find described as a *hot vater var*, &c.—*Id.*, June 20.

**Cockneyisms—contd.**

- 1830 It is almost impossible to distinguish Americans from English, especially Philadelphians, who like Cockneys talk about *very good weal and winegar*.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 16 (Providence).
- 1848 See CRAB. 1853. See SHOAT.

**Cocktail.** See quotation, 1806.

- 1806 *Cock-tail* is a stimulating liquor, composed of spirits of any kind, sugar, water, and bitters—it is vulgarly called *bittered sling*, and is supposed to be an excellent election-eering potion.—*The Balance*, May 13, p. 146.
- 1809 Those recondite beverages, *cock-tail*, stone-fence, and sherry-cobbler.—Washington Irving, 'Knickerbockers,' p. 241. (N.E.D.)
- 1861 I observed the bar was crowded by gentlemen engaged in consuming, or in waiting for, *cocktails* or mint juleps.—W. H. Russell, 'Diary,' April 14.

**Cocoa, Cocoa-nut.** A head. Slang. Compare CALABASH. So the Italian *zucca*. (Battendosi la zucca: 'Inferno,' xviii. 124.)

- 1837 Your *cocoa* is very near a sledge-hammer. If it isn't hard, it may get cracked.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 37.
- 1854 Do you remember breaking an ear of corn one night at a husking-bee, over the old "*cocoa-nut*" of that "cross-patch," old J. ?—*Knick. Mag.*, xliii. 432 (April).

**Codfish aristocracy.** An opprobrious name for persons who have made money in trade.

- 1850 We should regard it as somewhat strange if we should require a *codfish aristocracy* to keep us in order.—Mr. Butler of South Carolina, U.S. Senate, July 9: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1248, Appendix.
- 1852 When Foote spoke, [the Russian minister] looked on with that expression of contempt....with which one of our *codfish aristocracy* would regard a Democratic harangue from Mike Walsh.—*N.Y. Herald*, quoted in the *Cong. Globe*, Dec. 15: p. 102, App.
- 1853 This was a "cooler" to silk and satin greatness; or, as the boys call it, *codfish aristocracy*.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, April 13.
- 1853 D. is evidently a retainer of the "*codfish aristocracy*," who will only go where the price will match with his dignity.—*Id.*, April 22.
- 1860 The defender of genius against vulgar money bags, alias *codfish aristocracy*.—*Richmond Enquirer*, May 15, p. 1/8.
- 1862 The poor privilege of fawning about the skirts of a played-out *codfish aristocracy*.—*Oregon Argus*, Feb. 15.
- 1865 A few of the *codfish*, shoddy, and petroleum *aristocracy*.—*Daily Telegraph*, Dec. 4. (N.E.D.)

**Co-ed.** A girl who receives her training where co-education is in vogue.

1909 The days . . . when "co-eds" were to be met at fraternity teas, at dances and glee club concerts, &c.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, March 11.

1910 University of Chicago *coeds* will carry their suffrage enthusiasm into the theatre district Friday and Saturday, when they appear in the Suffragette play 'How the Vote Was Won,' first as a benefit for the Illinois Equal Suffrage League.—*Id.*, March 31.

**Cohoe.** See TUCKAHOE.

**Cohogle.** To associate. Used facetiously.

1855 Now the question is, will it pay to *cohogle* with these owls any longer?—*Olympia (W.T.) Pioneer*, July 6.

**Cold as a wagon tire.**

1833 If a man was *as cold as a wagon tire*, provided there was any life in him, she'd bring him to; there's no two ways about it.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 88.

1833 You're no account, to be afraid of a dead bear. I've used him up, the right way. He's *as cold as a wagon tire*.—*Id.*, p. 212.

**Cold slaw.** A corruption of COLE-SLAW. Raw cabbage, cut in fine shreds, and served with vinegar. Du. *Koolsla*.

1794 A piece of sliced cabbage, by Dutchmen ycleped *cold slaw*.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 12.

1821 Some of them read the invitation to eat "*cold slaw*" and beef.—*Penna. Intelligencer* (Harrisburg), March 23.

1843 I'd know . . . whether they preferred *cold-slaugh* cut lengthwise or crosswise of the cabbage.—Cornelius Mathews 'Writings,' p. 189.

1850 Some fossil remains of a petrified cabbage stump steeped in cider, intended to represent *cold slaw*.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 181.

a.1850 I'm a withered cabbage now, torn up by the roots and chopped into *cold-slaugh*.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 258.

1862 To leave my *coleslaugh* which was so good.—Trans., 'Les Misérables,' iii. 499. (N.E.D.)

**Cold snap.**

1844 A warm spell, which succeeded a "*cold snap*."—Joseph C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 143.

1845 [Travellers in Vermont] should prepare themselves for a "*cold snap*," if it is in the month of July.—'Lowell Offering,' v. 207.

1862 A note on "The late *Cold Snap*."—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Oct. 30.

1869 There was a *cold snap*, in which Fresh Pond was frozen over.—W. T. Washburne, 'Fair Harvard,' p. 150.

1910 There was a heavy snowfall throughout Chenango County to-day. The thermometer fell 35 degrees in a few hours, and it is feared that the sudden *cold snap* will greatly damage fruit trees, as the buds had been started by the recent hot spell.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 7.

**Collar-dogs, Collar-men.** See quotations.

- 1836 Those who compose the Jackson party are denounced by the new born Whigs as "*collar dogs*." Sir, I am a party man, and one of the true *collar dogs*, and am proud to wear the collar of such a man as Andrew Jackson, whose collar is a collar of democracy.—Mr. Boon of Indiana, House of Repr., May 9 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 337, App.
- 1841 These electioneering speeches were of the most insulting character to the majority, whose mildest form of designation was "*collar men*."—Mr. Linn of Missouri, U.S. Senate, July 12 : *id.*, p. 185.
- 1842 Doleful ditties about Congressional subserviency, *serfs*, *collar-men*, and registers of Executive edicts.—Mr. Sevier of Arkansas in the Senate, April 13 : *id.*, p. 329, App.

**Collards.** Dial. and U.S. Coleworts or cabbage.

- 1818 In the garden [the Kentuckians] cultivate their *collards*, i.e. probably coleworts, and kashaws.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 106 (Boston, 1824).
- 1850 Bein' carried to a grave by cold fride *collards* apeerd a hard case, but the Lord is in the Heavens an' he nose.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 153.
- 1882 A quantity of squashes, *collards*, onions, and other garden stuff.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' x. 257.

**Collateral.** Security for the repayment of a loan.

- 1847 I must have a thousand dollars. Here, take the *collateral*, and give me the money.—'Tom Pepper,' i. 143.
- 1858 *Collaterals* of stocks and bonds had depreciated, and currency had run short.—*Knicker. Mag.*, li. 24 (Jan.).
- 1887 Russia wants to borrow. Let the Czar send along his *collaterals*.—*Fall River Advance*, Ap. 23. (N.E.D.)

**Collide.** To come into collision.

- 1700 The flints....thus toss'd in air, *collide*.—John Dryden, 'Fables.' (N.E.D.)
- 1793 But if these little globes *collise*,  
Adieu to amity and peace.  
*Gazette of the U.S.*, May 11.
- 1869 The fact that the vessels did *collide* explodes the theory that there was no risk of collision.—Davis, J., in the case of *The Carroll*, 8 Wallace 305.
- 1872 Controversies growing out of collisions arise when the *colliding* vessel was in charge of a tug.—Clifford, J., in the case of *The Mabey and Cooper*, 14 Wallace 211.
- 1880 It is demonstrably a divine truth, and cannot *collide* with any other divine truth.—Alexander Winchell, 'The Pre-Adamites,' chap. xviii.

\*.\* The word has been traced to Burton's 'Anatomy' (1621) and to Sir J. Brown's 'Vulgar Errours' (1646). See *Notes and Queries*, 4 S. xii. 15.

**Colloquy, Colloquy men, &c.** (Are colloquy men divinity students ?)

1860 Some cue that will enable *colloquy men* to save an inglorious fizzle.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxv. 399.

1861 [He] has just succeeded in getting a *Colloquy appointment*.—*Id.*, xxvi. 80.

1868 They *colloquied* at much length.—Hawthorne, 'American Note-books,' ii. 142. (N.E.D.)

**Colonization.** The placing of partisans where their vote may decide an election.

1842 [Among modern phrases describing political knavery], "*colonization*" and "pipe-laying" were the most significant. So far as he was informed, the practice of *colonizing* had its origin, as connected with the elections of the people in our country, in the city of New York.—Mr. Wright of New York in the Senate, May 31: *Cong. Globe*, p. 471, App.

**Coloured person, Person of colour.** A "darky."

1760-72 The Negro women, or *coloured women*, as they are called here.—Tr. 'Juan and Ulloa's Voyages,' i. 121. (N.E.D.)

1800 A *man of colour* of the island of St. Domingo.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Feb. 22.

1812 Christopher Macpherson is a *man of color*, brought up as a book-keeper by a merchant, his master, and afterwards enfranchised.—Tho. Jefferson to John Adams, April 20. See also PERSON OF COLOUR.

**Colt's tail.** See quotation. Local.

1829 We are informed that it has been the uniform custom, at our courts, to break in the new members of every Grand Jury, by requiring them to pay what is called a *colt's tail*,—or in other words a treat.—*Mass. Spy*, May 13: from the *Bennington (Vt.) Journal*.

**Combine.** A combination.

1887-8. N.E.D.

**Come about, to.** To come round. Obs.

1798 To use their own favourite phrase, "They have *come about*." . . . Every pitiful, railing, snarling, thick-skulled Democrat "*comes about*." . . . As they were able to hear Moses and the Prophets without "*coming about*," let us not be deceived by their sudden changes, when a public office appears to be the object.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Aug. 16.

**Come-down.** A descent, a degradation.


1840 This was a great *come-down*, from the highest seat in the synagogue to a seat in the galley.—R. Dana, 'Before the Mast,' chap. xxviii. (N.E.D.)

**Come for to go for.** To begin, to attempt. Perhaps this ludicrous expression is originally English.

1820 Don't you *come for to go for* to dictate to us purveyors of fashion.—*Mass. Spy*, March 15: from the *National Advocate*.

1836 You needn't *go for to come for* to be so bricketty.—*Boston Pearl*, Feb. 13.

**Come-off.** An escape, an evasion.

1800 He replied that he was not at liberty to say—we had a sedition law—which will soon be done away—then I can explain.  A very good *come-off* this!—*The Aurora*, Phila., May 19.

1849 They pray to them as a *come-off*.—C. S. Bird, 'Mariolatry,' p. 46. (N.E.D.)

**Come-outers.** See quotation 1840. About thirty years earlier, a few queer people went to the south-western country on "*come-outer*" principles, though they did not use the name.—T. Flint, 'Recollections' (1826), pp. 275–280. See also the present writer's note, *Notes and Queries*, 9 S. vii. 424.

1840 The *come outers* are a sect recently sprung up in Cape Cod. Their leading views are said to be: 1. Opposition to a regular ministry. Every one should be his own priest. 2. Opposition to regularly organized churches. Every one is a church by himself. 3. A disregard of the Sabbath. All days are alike.—*Boston Courier*, November.

1850 *Charles*. Here comes a culprit to the bar. What's in the wind? *The Bailiff*. 'Tis a *Come-outer*, good my lord, alive and kicking.—S. Judd, 'Philo,' p. 67 (Boston).

1854 He belonged to a "*come-outer*" organization that denounced E.'s church as a brotherhood of thieves.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xliii. 109 (Jan.).

1866 These *come-outers* have two articles of faith, one social, one dogmatic; they believe that man and woman are equal, and that all the churches are dead and damned.—W. H. Dixon, 'New America,' chap. lxii.

**Come-up-with.** To get one's come-up-with means to meet with one's deserts, more or less unpleasantly. A New-England expression.—*Dialect Notes*, iii. 184.

1869 The way he got *come-up-with* by Miry was too funny for anything.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Mis' Elderkin's Pitcher.'

1896 I can give him his *come-up 'ans* if he goes to foolin' around.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 155.

1897 Well, I did get my *come-uppings* that time.—W. D. Howells, 'Landlord at Lion's Head,' chap. xxi.

1897 She had merely got her *come-uppings*, when all was said.—*Id.*, chap. xlv.

**Commune.** To communicate: especially in the sacrament. Obs. in England.

1821 [Roger Williams] taught that it was not lawful for a pious man to *commune* in family prayer, or in taking an oath, with persons whom he judged to be unregenerate.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 142.

**Commune**—*contd.*

- 1823 To-morrow I propose administering the sacrament—do you *commune*, my young friend?—J. F. Cooper, 'The Pioneers,' i. 254 (Lond., 1827).
- 1826 The members that *communed* were from different states and countries. Each professor seemed pertinaciously to exact that the peculiar usages of his church should be adopted.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 112.
- 1836 And yet the true Christian does pray, does *commune*.—Dr. G. T. Chapman, 'Sermons to Presbyterians of all Sects,' p. 116 (Hartford, Ct.).
- 1845 I [Bishop Southgate] therefore *communed* with my Congregational brethren.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxv. 178 (Feb.).
- 1856 For my part, said Abijah rather grimly, if things was managed my way, I shouldn't *commune* with nobody that didn't believe in election up to the hub.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' chap. xxiii.

**Commuter.** A season-ticket-holder.

- 1874 Old *commuters* along the line.—F. Bret Harte, 'Guild's Signal.' (N.E.D.)
- 1909 [As the ice-cased vessel] lay in her dock, she attracted attention from the *commuters* of a railroad line, whose ferry slip adjoined.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Jan. 28.
- 1910 The *commuter*, the man who has been lured from a Manhattan apartment to a suburban house and lot. His first purchase is a lawn-mower, his second a hen and a clutch of eggs for her to set on.—*Id.*, Feb. 21.

**Comper.** See quotation. College word.

- 1836 Any fracas or tumult, like the Calethump of Christmas eve memory, would be styled a "*comper*." . . . What pen can describe the "*comper*" which this excited!—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, i. 26-27 (Feb.).

**Complected.** Complexioned. Singleton notes this as a New England expression, 1824 ('Letters from the South and West,' p. 30). The transition is shown in the quotations. Mr. Farmer is clearly mistaken (1888) in calling the word a new-fangled Western barbarism.

- 1800 He is tall and *dark complectioned*.—Advt., *Mass. Mercury*, May 27.
- 1813 [A runaway] slender built and *light of a complexion*.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, May 26.
- 1819 Hence arose a race of *light-complexioned* men.—H. Murtrie, 'Sketches of Louisville,' p. 103.
- 1824 [Edward Irving] is a *dark-complexioned*, savage-looking fellow, quite violent in his gestures and delivery; and if he had a long beard would look more like Lorenzo Dow than any one I know of.—Letter to *The Register*, Feb. 16.
- 1828 The said negro is . . . stout made; black *complected*. [The printer has it *complected*.]—Runaway advt., *Richmond Enquirer*, Feb. 2, p. 4/3.
- 1839 In one corner were huddled a baker's dozen of *yellow-complected* brats.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xiv. 141 (Aug.).
- 1840 She said she would allow he was the most *beautiful-complected* child she had ever seen.—*Id.*, xv. 131 (Feb.).



**Completed**—*contd.*

- 1855 Taken up, and committed to the jail of New Hanover County (N.C.) on the 5th of March, 1855, a Negro Man, who says his name is Edward Lloyd. Said negro is about 35 or 40 years old, *light-complected*, &c.—F. L. Olmsted, 'Cotton Kingdom,' i. 157 (Lond.).
- 1859 Mr. Staples was a walking with a *light complected* woman.—B. P. Shillaber, 'Knitting Work,' p. 157 (Boston).
- 1859 Ada, a *gipsey-complected* girl of seventeen summers.—Mrs. Duniway, 'Capt. Gray's Company,' p. 45 (Portland, Oregon).
- 18— She's a trifle *dark complected*.—F. Bret Harte, 'A Pupil of Chestnut Ridge.'
- 1878 'Twas a dreadful *dark-complected* man, real spry appearin'.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Cal Culver and the Devil,' *Harper's Magazine*, lvii. 583.
- 1896 I'd like to know what they always name *dark-complected* babies Lily for.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales of Puget Sound,' p. 96.

**Compromit.** To compromise. Now rare, if not obsolete.

- 1787 The public reputation is in danger of being *compromitted* with him.—Tho. Jefferson, 'Writings' (1859), ii. 155. (N.E.D.)
- 1794 Liable to the danger of *compromitting* himself.—Gouverneur Morris, 'Life,' ii. 399. (N.E.D.)
- 1807 It has *compromitted* the faith of our government with those savage warriors.—Pike, 'Sources of the Miss.,' i. App. 31. (N.E.D.)
- 1841 Carry this correspondence to the utmost extent. What is it more? How does it *compromit* this country?—John Q. Adams in the House of Repr., Sept. 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 434, App.
- 1842 Mr. White of Louisiana said that civil liberty and the rights of man were daily *compromitted*, outraged, and trampled under foot, in Washington, by the manner of making arrests in cases of debt.—The same, June 18: *id.*, p. 650.

**Concededly.** Admittedly.

- 1882 The present Executive Mansion . . . is *concededly* not what it ought to be.—*N. Y. Tribune*, March 22. (N.E.D.)
- 1910 Manchuria is *concededly* a fruitful field for exploitation.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, March 14.

**Conceit**, v. To perceive, to imagine.

- 1847 He always *conceited* I was a sort of a sister to him.—'Billy Warwick's Wedding,' p. 103 (Phila.).
- 1856 [You] *conceit* that you have discovered something.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 505 (Nov.).
- 1878 As soon as he *conceited* what was up, he gathered a dornick.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 185.

**Condition**, v. To pass a student through an examination on condition of his doing further work. Originally a Yale word.

- 1849 [A young man from the country] shall be examined and "*conditioned*" in everything, and yet he shall come out far ahead of his city Latin-school class-mate.—Letter cited in B. H. Hall's 'College Words,' p. 124 (1856).



**Condition**—*contd.*

- 1860 This peculiarly Yalensian system of "*conditions*." . . . . A man who is *conditioned* once, instead of doing better, generally keeps on getting *conditioned*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxvi. 25-26.
- 1869 What will old W. say if I am *conditioned* in mathematics ? —W. T. Washburne, 'Fair Harvard,' pp. 105-6 (N.Y.).

**Conduct**, v. To behave.

- 1754 I say not only doing but *conducting*.—Jonathan Edwards, 'Freedom of the Will,' v. 27n. (N.E.D.)
- 1772 Is not He, who *conducts* thus, a Friend of Order ?—*Boston-Gazette*, Aug. 24.
- 1798 Mary my wife has *conducted*, and does *conduct*, in such a manner that I am obliged to break up Housekeeping.—*Advt., Mass. Spy*, April 25.
- 1814 [The New Englanders] use the word *conduct* as a neuter verb ; the substantive *progress* as a verb, &c.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 29 (Boston, 1824).

**Conductor.** The "guard" of a train. The word, in this newer sense, was introduced into England by the Midland Railroad, about thirty years ago. See *Notes and Queries*, 6 S. ii. 164.

- 1839 Mr. John C. Pole, one of the *conductors* of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.—*Eastern Argus*, Portland, Me., Sept. 24, p. 2/4.
- 1853 "But where's my bundle ?" asked the fat man. "*Conductor!* where's my bundle ?" The *conductor* knew nothing about it.—'Life Scenes,' p. 129.
- 1853 "Who are you ?" asked a Connecticut fellow of a rather overbearing *conductor* on the New Haven Rail Road. "I am a *conductor* on these cars." "Wall, I swow ! You a *conductor* of other folks, and don't know how to conduct yourself."—*Oregonian*, Sept. 10.
- 1854 "Tickets ! Tickets, gentlemen !" cried the *conductor* as he passed our friends.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xx. 16.
- 1856 I was aroused by an angry contention between the *conductor* and my companion.—*Id.*, xxi. 154.
- 1856 Want of communication between the *conductor* and the engine-driver.—E. With, 'Railroad Accidents,' p. 90. (N.E.D.)
- 1857 I have travelled in cars until the *conductors* all knew me like a brother.—O. W. Holmes, 'Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table,' chap. ii.

**Conestoga waggon.** Conestoga is a town in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. These conveyances were made with very broad wheels, to go on miry roads.

- 1783 [Major-general Lee] died in a small dirty room in the Philadelphia tavern called the *Canastoe-waggon* (designed chiefly for the entertainment and accommodation of common countrymen).—William Gordon, 'History of the American Revolution,' iv. 306 (Lond., 1788).
- 1808 The throng of Pittsburg and *Conestoga waggons*.—*The Balance*, Feb. 16, p. 28.

**Conestoga waggon—contd.**

1843 The loads he had seen crammed into a *Conestogo wagon*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 137.

1846 In the background stood four large *Connestoga waggons*, with ample canvass tops.—Rufus B. Sage, 'Scenes in the Rocky Mountains,' p. 17 (Phila.).

\*.\* Bartlett, giving (as usual with him) no date, cites Jennings on *The Horse*, p. 61: "The vast, white-topped wagons, drawn by superb teams of the stately *Conestogas*." This I have not been able to verify. The word *stoga* or *stogy* (q.v.), used of shoes, and also of cigars, appears to come from Conestoga. See 'Dialect Notes,' i. 229 (Ky., Mich.). See also *Notes and Queries*, 11 S. iii. 315.

**Conk.** See quotation.

1851 There is a cancerous disease peculiar to the Pine-tree, to which lumbermen give the original name of "*Conk*" or "*Konkus*."—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 99 (N.Y.).

**Connption fit.** A fit of hysterics.

1833 Ant Keziah fell down in a *connption fit*.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 218 (1860).

1842 The Vermont papers are going into *connption fits*, because their state is in debt \$150,000.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 23.

1859 She went into a *connption* at the sight of poor Snap.—*Harper's Weekly*, Nov. 19.

**Considerable.** A good deal; no small specimen.

1816 He is *considerable* of a surveyor.—Pickering, 'Vocabulary.' (N.E.D.)

1843 Wal! You're *considerable* of a critur, you are, by thunder! You etarnal, great, green-eyed, black devil! [A cat.]—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 79.

1852 He is really worth knowing, and *considerable* of a man, as we say—no fool at all.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 142 (N.Y.).

**Continental.** A soldier of the "Continental" army.

1778 Came to my house, on the night of the 14th inst., a *Continental soldier*.—*Maryland Journal*, March 24.

1781 Beef in quarters was found, on which the hungry *continentals* fed greedily.—William Gordon, 'Hist. of the Am. Revolution,' iv. 58 (Lond., 1788).

1845 The "Old *Continental*," of which our grandfathers tell, would have been most arrant cowards in comparison with a regiment of our modern heroes.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xi. 40.

1847 L. Sabine. (N.E.D.)

1856 In ragged regimentals  
Stood the old *Continental*,  
Yielding not.

*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 638 (June).

**Continental money.** The scrip issued by Congress during the revolutionary war. It became a proverb of worthlessness. Hence NOT TO CARE (OR GIVE) A CONTINENTAL.

**Continental money**—*contd.*

- 1825 I outs with a handfull of the right stuff ; old *continental*—paper money issued by the colonies.—John Neal, ' Brother Jonathan,' i. 159.
- 1837 The Congress of the U.S. caused to be emitted that paper, always since known by the name of "*continental money*," and which no man living, if he has any recollection of it, desires ever to see restored.—Mr. Sergeant of Pa., in the House of Representatives, Sept. 29 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 198, App.
- 1838 The framers of the Constitution had the ghosts of the colony, proclamation, State, and *continental money*, before them.—Mr. Wall of N.J. in the U.S. Senate, March 23 : *id.*, p. 230, Appendix.
- 1841 Mr. Gordon of New York said the old soldiers had fought gallantly, and they were paid off in *continental rags*.—House of Representatives, June 18 : *id.*, p. 75.
- 1841 I wouldn't give a *continental copper* for the safety of your skin.—W. G. Simms, ' The Kinsmen,' i. 98 (Phila.).
- 1874 I tole him as how I didn't keer *three continental derns* fer his whole band.—Edward Eggleston, ' The Circuit Rider,' p. 120 (Lond., 1895).
- 1888 I am not worrying about the nomination. I don't care a *continental* if I don't receive it.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 16 (Farmer).

**Contraband.** See quotation, 1861. The term was applied to the negroes in that year, when three of them made their way to the Union lines, by General B. F. Butler. " These men," said he, " are *contraband of war* ; set them at work."—*Vide* Parton's ' Butler at New Orleans,' and Wendell Phillips's comment.

- 1861 The three negroes, being held *contraband of war*, were at once set to work to aid the masons in constructing a new bakehouse within the fort. Thenceforward the term "*contraband*" bore a new signification, with which it will pass in history, meaning the negroes who had been held as slaves, now adopted under the protection of the Government.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 626 (Nov.).
- 1862 On Feb. 15th President Lincoln wrote on a card : " I shall be obliged if the Secretary of the Treasury will in his discretion give Mr. Pierce such instructions in regard to Port Royal *contrabands* as may seem judicious."—*Id.*, p. 297 (Sept., 1863).
- 1862 The first information . . . came from a *contraband*, a negro boy.—W. H. Russell, *The Times*, March 27. (N.E.D.)
- 1862 " The general commanding wishes you to employ the *contrabands* in and about your camp in cutting down all the trees . . . I have ordered tents for the *contrabands* to be quartered in."—Order of Gen. Butler, July 31 : Parton, p. 506.
- 1863 Jerusha Matilda went down to Port Royal to teach the *contrybands* their primmers. — ' Major Jack Downing,' March 28.

**Contraband—contd.**

- 1863 Colonel Mallory, living on the York Peninsula, under a flag of truce, claimed three fugitive slaves (May 25th) who had sought refuge within the Federal lines to escape being sold "to go South." The Colonel had met the General in several Conventions, had supped and drank with him; and doubtless presumed that he had but to ask and receive the "black rascals." Butler heard the rebel demand with the formality of a commander. "You hold," said he, "that negroes are property." "I do," said Mallory. "You also hold that Virginia is no longer a part of the U.S.?" "I do." "Now," said Butler, "you are a lawyer, Colonel Mallory, and I want to know if you claim that the Fugitive Slave Act of the U.S. is binding in a foreign nation; and if a foreign nation uses this kind of property to destroy the lives and property of citizens of the U.S., if that species of property ought not to be regarded as *contraband*?" The Colonel retired without the negroes; and the country rejoiced over the construction that a negro was "contraband of war" when the slave of a rebel master.—O. J. Victor, 'History of the Southern Rebellion,' ii. 191.
- 1864 A coal-black, brutal-looking negro soldier, an escaped "*contraband*," as Beast Butler styles the stolen and refugee slaves.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' ii. 233 (Richmond, 1876).
- 1867 The garrison at Lynchburg were advised, doubtless by some "intelligent *contraband*," that the brave cavalier was stopping with his father.—J. M. Crawford, 'Mosby and his Men,' p. 370.
- 1875 In the *Atlantic Monthly* for June, Mrs. Launt Thompson tells the 'Story of a *Contraband*.'
- 1885 "Massa Capen," said Moses, "the Unyum Gub'ment done make all de black folks *contraban*'; now, sar, what's dat?"—Admiral Porter, 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 94.
- 1885 The Confederates soon finished all the *contrabands* that were swimming in the river, or clinging to the wreck.—*Id.*, p. 243.
- 1908 [That boat] hails from Beaufort Island, in the heart of the black belt of South Carolina. Government had a depot of *contrabands* there in the wah, and their grandchildren are there yet.—*N. Y. Ev. Post*, Dec. 31.

**Contraption.** A contrivance. The word is found in some of the southern counties of England.

- 1837 Ever since these black stones [anthracite coal] was brought to town, the wood-sawyers and pilers, and them soap-fat and hickory-ashes men, has been going down; and for my part I can't say as how I see what's to be the end of all their new-fangled *contraptions*.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 95.

**Contraption**—*contd.*

- 1842 It's my vote that we turn these *contraptions*—the whole bilin' on em,—right out into the shed, and jist make up a good big shake down with buffaloes and cushions.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 118.
- 1843 It was no rotary-stove *contraption*, to cook a morsel of meat and a half a peck of potatoes with an apron of chips.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 287.
- 1848 [At the Patent Office, Washington] I seed more Yankee *contraptions* of one kind and another than ever I thought was in the known world.—'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 54 (Phila.).
- 1848 To see a little iron *contraption* take a piece of lether and a coil of wire, &c., &c., went a little ahed of anything I ever heard or dreamed of.—*Id.*, p. 137.
- 1852 [They] have managed to take with them many of them ar little woman *contraptions* you speak on.—James Weir, 'Simon Kenton,' p. 190 (Phila.).
- 1857 A rumble-come-tumbled mess of miscellaneous *contraptions*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 277 (March).
- 1902 Maybe you noticed that fancy *contraption* [a hat-rack] in the hall as you come in.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 9.
- 1909 Too many *contraptions* 'bout [that sugar evaporator,] 'cordin' to my way o' thinkin', Paddle's good enough for me.—*N. Y. Ev. Post*, April 12.

**Coodies.** See quotation, 1814.

- 1814 [During this year] a writer of considerable talents had appeared in a New York paper, assuming the name of Abimaleck Coody, a mechanic.... This was Mr. Gulian C. Verplanck.... [An opponent, said to be Mr. Clinton, charged him with becoming] the head of a political sect called the *Coodies*, composed of the combined spawn of federalism and Jacobinism.—J. D. Hammond, 'History of Political Parties,' i. 398 (1842).
- 1829 Duer, who is attached to young Hoffman, with all the *Coodies*, high-minded, and Clintonians.... Lorenzo tells me I had better abandon all ideas of political preferment till the *Coodies* and high-minded [are] exterminated.—Jesse Hoyt to Secretary Van Buren, April 24: W. L. Mackenzie, 'Lives of Butler and Hoyt,' pp. 55, 56 (Boston, 1845).

**Cook-all.** See quotation.

- 1823 Some three families cook and bake in one skillet, called the *cook-all*.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 311 (Lond.).

**Cookey.** A small cake. The word occurs in Scotland ab. 1730 (N.E.D.). "In the Low Country Cakes are called *Cookies*."—Burt, 'Lett. N. Scotland,' ii. 272 (1760). It probably reached the U.S. through the Dutch *Koekje*.

- 1803 When dears and sweets were as plenty as *cookies* on a new-year's day.—'The Port Folio,' iii. 14 (Phila.).

**Cookey**—*contd.*

- 1849 Their children I will leave in lurch,  
Or in each stocking put a birch.

\*                      \*                      \*

Ay more, no *cookie* shall be baked  
For them, until my wrath is slaked.

*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xxxii. 19 (Jan.).

- 1850 The child wanted a *cooky*. "Eat your bread and milk first," enjoined the mother. The child reached forward, and purloined the *cooky*.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 246.
- 1855 [Our dinner] consists of slices of cold ham, *cookies*, and doughnuts.—Sara Robinson, 'Kansas,' p. 38 (1857).
- 1856 I'll bet a *cookey* he called for me.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 6.
- 1871 He had a word for the children, and maybe an apple or a *cookey* in his pocket for 'em.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Laughin' in Meetin'.'
- 1878 I gin the girl some o' them *cookies* you sent over.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' chap. xxxiv.

**Cooler.** A coat of some kind. Obs.

- 1848 What if his waistcoat boasted but two buttons, and his ill-fitted *cooler* came but half-way down to the bend of his knees in a spare "swallow-tail" behind?—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxii. 227 (Sept.).

**Cooler.** A prison; where a hot-headed person can reflect, and "cool off."

- 1884 [He was] lodged in the *cooler* over night, and then fined \$5 in the morning.—*Milnor (Dak.) Teller*, Aug. 8. (N.E.D.)

**Coon.** A racoon. From the slyness of this animal, the word came to be used as a nick-name, and was specially applied in 1840 to the adherents of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too." Any defeat of the "Whigs" was termed by the Democrats "skinning the coon." Afterwards the term "coon" was applied to the negroes.—*Notes and Queries*, 9 S. xii. 338.

- 1839 In the Western States, where the racoon is plentiful, they use the abbreviation '*coon*' when speaking of people.—Marryat, 'Diary in America,' ii. 232. (N.E.D.)

- 1841 The log cabins and *coon skin banners*, which you used so successfully in the late contest, will not avail you now. No vulgar songs nor idle shows can divert public attention from your acts.—Mr. Weller of Ohio, House of Repr., Feb. 3: *Cong. Globe*, p. 147, App.

- 1841 All the *coon skins* in America will not cover the deformity of the measures which they have brought forward this session.—Mr. Watterson of Tenn., the same, Aug. 26: *id.*, p. 308, App.

- 1841 See Appendix XXX.

- 1842 "*The old Tip coon*" is pictured flat on his back, in consequence of the Virginia elections. — *Phila. Spirit of the Times*, May 5.

- 1842 Two years ago we were nearly drowned out by the hard cider, and scratched to pieces by the *coons*.—*Id.*, Oct. 7.

**Coon—contd.**

- 1842 Says I, "Mr. *Coon*," and then he smiled,  
 "You can't quite come it over this child";  
 And then he looked, O Lord! how wild.  
 His tail hung down a feet.  
*Id.*, Oct. 11.
- 1842 Ohio has gone most unexpectedly for Democracy,—has  
*skinned the coons*, and repudiated *Coonism*, Federalism,  
 Clayism, and every other species of Whiggism.—*Id.*,  
 Oct. 19.
- 1842 His home was in a hollow tree, where everything was  
 found,  
 Where cider-barrels, *coonskins*, and log-cabins lay around;  
 'Twas there his *coonship* sat in state, a-watching of the  
 moon,  
 O the instant you'd lay eyes on him, you'd know that same  
*Old Coon*.  
*Id.*, Oct. 20.
- 1843 The beggary which Whiggery (or, to adopt the latest  
 alias, *Coonery*) has brought upon the Government.—  
*Missouri Reporter*, March 21: from the *Baltimore Repub-*  
*lican*.
- 1844 Henry Clay caps are in vogue among the *coons* of this  
 city. Henry Clay coffins will be in demand after the presi-  
 dential election.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 2.
- 1844 Oct. 12, the same paper displayed a picture of a *skinned*  
*coon* as an emblem of triumph.
- 1844 He seems to have forgotten that this same party, in 1840,  
 substituted *coonery* for principles,—that is, coons, coon-  
 skins, gourds, badges, hard-cider, cider barrels, canoes,  
 carousals, &c.—Mr. Jameson of Missouri in the House of  
 Repr., Jan. 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 81, App.
- 1844 Mr. Duncan of Ohio exhibited an anatomical drawing of  
 "that same *old coon*," and entered into an exposition of the  
 principles of the Whig party.—The same March 6:  
*id.*, p. 350.
- 1848 Of the flagellation which [Senator Allen] has inflicted upon  
 John Tyler, I may say, in the homely but expressive phrase  
 of an Ohio editor, "He is your own *coon*—it is your own  
 privilege to skin him."—Mr. Borland of Arkansas in the  
 US. Senate, May 15: *id.*, p. 557, App.
- 1848 "Yes," sez Davis o' Miss.,  
 "The perfection o' bliss  
 Is in *skinnin' thet same old coon*," sez he.  
'Biglow Papers,' 1st S., No. 5.
- 1855 Did *the Old Coon* dole out \$2 a day to you from the White  
 House? No, you had to go back to your farms. . . .  
 You came back to the Old Democracy in 1844, and helped  
 to skin *the Old Coon* with a vengeance. . . . *The Old Coon*  
 has got into the track. Well, now that we have got hold  
 of Sam, we will track him up.—G. W. Lawson in the  
*Oregon Times*, June.



**Coon**—*contd.*

1861 He'll catch *de ole coon*, and hang him up so high de crows won't catch him; yas, he will. [This particular "*ole coon*" is Mr. Lincoln.]—*Knicker Mag.*, lviii. 315 (Oct.).

1862 Mr. Lincoln figures as "*the Yankee 'Coon*" in *Punch's* well-known cartoon, Jan. 11.

**Coon**, v. To go along a log as a racoon does.

1834 Irwin was obliged to straddle the log, and, as they quaintly call it in the west, "*coon it across*." — Albert Pike, '*Sketches*,' &c., p. 77 (Boston).

1854 A deep chasm had, reaching across it, a small ancient looking cedar log, which had either to be walked or *cooned*. — Letter to *The Oregonian*, Oct. 28.

1855 [He drove] his horse through the stream, while he "*cooned a log*" above it.—W. G. Simms, '*Border Beagles*,' p. 96.

1855 You will be relieved of your nag, and we will *coon a log* for the rest of our journey.—*Id.*, p. 319.

1886 In trying to "*coon*" across Knob Creek on a log, Lincoln fell in.—*Century Mag.*, xxxiii. 16n. (N.E.D.)

**Coon's age**, a. A very long period. *The Knickerbocker Magazine* (1836) has "*a dog's age*" : vii. 17 (Jan.).

1845 We won't hear the eend of this bisness for *a coon's age* : you see if we do.—'*Chronicles of Pineville*,' p. 72.

1845 He can talk more sense in a minute than old R. can understand in *a coon's age*.—*Id.*, p. 128.

1846 Jim Clark has gone to the woods for fat pine, and Peggy Willet is along to take a lite for him,—they've been gone *a coon's age*.—'*Quarter Race in Kentucky*, &c.,' p. 85.

1848 I never did like this Yanky way of married people livin' all over creation without seein' one another more'n once in *a coon's age*.—W. E. Burton, '*Waggeries*,' p. 16.

1851 We had not seen [that] amount of cash in *a coon's age*.—'*Adventures of Capt. Simon Suggs*, &c.,' p. 155 (Phila.).

1851 "That's the best red-eye I've swallowed in *er coon's age*," said the speaker, after bolting a caulker.—'*Polly Peasblossom's Wedding*,' &c., p. 74.

1851 This child hain't had that much money in *a coon's age*.—*Id.*, p. 99.

1853 Hello, old hoss, whar hev you been *this coon's age*?—Paxton, '*A Stray Yankee in Texas*,' p. 201.

**Coontie**, **Coontah**. The *Zamia integrifolia*.

1837 The inhabitants [live] principally on fish, turtle, and *coonti*; the last they bring from the main [land].—John L. Williams, '*Territory of Florida*,' p. 33.

1852 [He] discovered a fine patch of *Coontah* or arrowroot, from which a beautiful flour can be manufactured.—F. R. Goulding, '*Young Marooners*,' p. 173. (N.E.D.)

**Coot**. A ninny; a simpleton.

1794 But Satan was not such a *coot*.  
To sell Judea for a goat.

*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Jan. 17: from the *Connecticut Courant*.



**Coot**—*contd.*

- 1824 "Poh, Jo, you *coot*," cries Shacklefoot,  
 "You'd better come to halting O,  
 And stop the noise of these rude boys,  
 By paying for the malting O."  
*Old Colony Memorial* (Plymouth), March 6.
- 1848 Ef I'd expected sech a trick, I wouldn't ha' cut my foot  
 By goin' and votin' fer myself, like a consumed *coot*.  
 'Biglow Papers,' 1st Series, No. 9.
- 1850 Little *coot* / don't you know the Bible is the best book in  
 the world ?—Sylvester Judd, 'Margaret,' p. 134 (Bartlett).
- 1856 He's an amazin' ignorant old *coot*, tew.  
 'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 9.
- 1856 I used to be a verdant *coot* myself, but Zeph could beat  
 me to death.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 2.
- 1857 It is a poor *coot*, let me tell you, that will make such  
 excuses.—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City,  
 Sept. 20 : 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 251.
- 1857 He bestowed upon himself a variety of contemptuous  
 epithets, terminating respectively with the words "*coot*,"  
 "fool," and "pewter-head."—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay  
 State,' p. 191.

**Cooter.** The Carolina box-turtle. [Why should it be an emblem  
 of intoxication ?]

- 1827 A few jolly toppers, who wallowed in the sand, "as drunk  
 as a *cooter*."—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 22 : from the *Augusta*  
 (Ga.) *Chronicle*.
- 1832 It was a large *cooter* that rose to the surface only a few  
 feet distant.—'Memoirs of a Nullifier,' p. 40 (Columbia,  
 S.C.).
- 1848 [The free negroes in Philadelphia,] many of 'em was  
 diseased and bloated up like frogs, and lay sprawlin about  
 like so many *cooters* in a mud-hole, with ther red eyes  
 peepin out of ther dark rooms and cellars.—'Major Jones's  
 Sketches of Travel,' p. 104 (Phila.).
- 1851 He's very fond of liquor, and I can manage to have him  
 as drunk as a *cooter* by dark.—'Polly Peasblossom's  
 Wedding,' p. 45 (Phila.).
- 1853 What 'u'd these darned *cooters* think, if they could see  
 us naow ?—'Turnover : a Tale of New Hampshire,'  
 p. 43 (Boston).
- 1858 You might as well set a Highland *cooter*—a terrapin in  
 my country—to catch an antelope, as set a regular soldier  
 to catch an Indian.—Mr. Toombs of Georgia, U.S. Senate,  
 May 13 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 357, App.
- 1859 It turned out to be a large "*cooter*" (which we take to be  
 a sort of snapping-turtle) that rose to the surface.—*Knicker-*  
*Mag.*, liii. 413 (April).

**Copalm.** A balsam-yielding tree : the sweet gum or liquid-  
 amber.

- 1775 Live oak abound here, intermixed with *copalm* and other  
 timber.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 336.

**Copenhagen, v.** To appropriate suddenly, as the English under Nelson did the Danish fleet.

1811 Hints are given that a plan was organized to "*Copenhagen*" Canada.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 13.

1813 Letters from Georgia say the "*Copenhagen*" expedition against the Floridas goes on swimmingly, anything in the laws of the U.S. to the contrary notwithstanding.—*Boston-Gazette*, Feb. 11.

**Copper-head.** A venomous snake; the *Trigonocephalus contortrix*.

1796 Of the venomous kind, the most common are the rattle snake and the *copper or moccassin snake*....The *copper snake* is active and treacherous, and it is said will absolutely put himself in the way of a person to bite him.—Isaac Weld, 'Travels through North America,' pp. 115-116 (Lond., 1799).

1817 And near him the she-wolf stirr'd the brake,  
And the *copper-snake* breath'd in his ear.

*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 5.

1821 Who has not heard of the rattle-snake or *copperhead*? An unexpected sight of either of these reptiles will make even the "lords of creation" recoil.—*Mass. Spy*, June 6: from the *Microcosm*.

1822 A few days since a woman in Salisbury township, Bucks county, discovered a *copperhead snake* on her dresser. In the same township, a woman setting her foot out of the door was bit in the heel by a *copperhead*.—*Mass. Spy*, July 31.

1825 Lest he might set his lifted foot upon the loitering *copper-head* or the coiled rattlesnake.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 215.

1829 There are some *copperheads* and a few moccassins, whose bite is not altogether harmless.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Swallow Barn,' p. 205 (N.Y., 1851).

1843 J. G., in moving a piece of bark to put under the wheel, was bitten in the wrist by a *copperhead*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 150.

1850 The most terrible of all American snakes is the *copperhead*.—Silvester Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 362.

1854 The *copper-head*, so called, is a terrible serpent, supposed to inflict a more dangerous wound than the rattlesnake.—Lambert Lilly, 'History of the Western States,' p. 23 (Boston.)

**Copperhead.** A descendant of the Dutch settlers of New York. Obsolete.

1828 Death has sometimes had his match with some of these tough old *copperheads*.—James K. Paulding, 'A New Mirror for Travellers,' p. 108 (N.Y., 1868).

**Copperhead.** A North American Indian. Obsolete.

1857 Dan had a hatred of "*copper heads*," as he called the Indians, which was refreshingly orthodox.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Oct. 10.

**Copperhead.** A Northerner who was supposed to be a Southern sympathizer during the Civil War. (See quotation, 1885.)

1863 The more malignant *Copperheads* of this state.—*New York Tribune*, Jan. 12. (N.E.D.)

1863 The *Copperhead* Editors, who blow so much, ought to go South in ropes.—*Rocky Mountain News* (Denver), April 9.

1863 The treason of *Copperheads* manifests itself in a pretended loyalty to the Government, while all their sympathy is transferred to the South, to aid and comfort the rebellion.—*Harper's Weekly*, Sept. 19.

1863 A political huckster and higgler ;  
Says he, I'm not dead ;  
As a live *Copperhead*  
I'm a squirmulous vermiform wriggler.

Rhymes published by F. Leypoldt, New York.

1864 The Tories in England, and the *Copperheads* in this country, talk of the war in exactly the same strain.—*Harper's Weekly*, April 9.

1885 Many persons stigmatized as *Copperheads*, during the war, were really opposed to the Rebellion.—Admiral D. D. Porter, 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 205.

**Cord, Cordwood.** A cord is a measure of four feet by four by eight.

1616 20 *cordes* of olde woode.—Sir R. Boyle, 'Diary' (1886) i. 112. (N.E.D.)

1638-9 A man was presented for stealing *Cord wood*.—'N. Riding Records,' iv. 109. (N.E.D.)

1683 Cord-wood, under the name of *stick wood*, was regulated at the length of four feet.—Watson, 'Historic Tales of New York,' p. 88 (1832).

1762 [He has seized] about Twenty Eight *Cords* of *Cord Wood* as forfeited, not being four Feet in length. [Two similar notices follow].—*Boston Evening Post*, April 12.

1771 He was then armed with two *cordwood* sticks.—*Boston-Gazette*, Feb. 11.

1783 I will take in pay wharf-logs, *cord-wood*, locust-post, &c.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, March 11.

1806 A quantity of "Scaleboard and *cordes of Wood*" to be sold by auction.—*Mass. Spy*, March 19.

1813 A load of wood measuring one hundred and six solid feet, or thirteen *cordes* and a quarter. [A curious miscalculation, being sixteen times too much].—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 24.

1817 Fire wood [in W. Pennsylvania] is two dollars per *cord*.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 35 (Phila.).

1845 A customer on the banks of the Mississippi, who was sitting on a pile of *cord wood*.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' ii. 168.

**Cord, Cord up.** To stack up in cords.

1762 [The wood] is first *corded* here.—Tr., Busching's 'Syst. Geog.,' v. 652. (N.E.D.)

1833 Was [the timber] *corded up* like steamboat wood, and in that manner devoured?—Introduction to 'Sketches of David Crockett.'

**Cordelle, Cordeau.** A towing-line. Fr.

1814 A contrary wind, and some rain. Proceeded with the *cordelle*.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Journal,' p. 236.

1817 Mr. Lisa came to borrow a *cordeau*, or towing-line.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 103.

1823 Where rapids occurred, we assisted at the *cordelle*, or towing-line, from the shore.—J. D. Hunter, 'Mem. Captivity,' p. 84. (N.E.D.)

1823 The force of our steam engine was sufficient to propel the boat against the current of the Missouri, without recourse to the *cordelle*.—E. James, 'Rocky Mtn. Expedition,' i. 67.

1826 A "*cordelle*" is a long rope fastened at one end to the boat, thrown ashore, and seized by a sufficient number of hands to drag the boat up the stream.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 91.

1833 With the help of setting-poles, and at times the aid of a *cordelle*, we stemmed the current.—'Narrative of James O. Pattie,' p. 152 (Cincinnati).

1835 It was impossible to proceed, except by means of the *cordelle*, a strong cable attached to the boat.—James Hall, 'Tales of the Border,' p. 68 (Phila.).

1884 A Kanuck, or French Canadian, at the oar or the "*cordelle*."—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 125. (N.E.D.)

**Cordelle, v.** To tow with a "*cordelle*."

1826 In two instances the boatmen on the tops of the cliffs, when *cordelling* the boat directly at the base of these rocks, disengaged snakes from their retreats, and they fell on the deck of our boat.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 96.

1838 The men of the Hudson's Bay Company *cordelled* several batteaux down this rapid.—S. Parker, 'Explor. Tour' (1846), p. 144. (N.E.D.)

1842 [The falls] are ascended by *cordeling*, and it is frequently necessary to work for hours in the water among the rocks, in order to get up one boat load.—Gustavus Hines, 'Oregon,' p. 120 (1851).

1844 [They] employed only twenty *cordelled* boats, carrying one hundred tons each.—Mr. Bowlin of Missouri, House of Repr., Jan. 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 75, App.

**Corn.** Indian corn, once called "Turkish corn"; maize; the S. African "mealies."

1697 A Fleet of Pereagoes laden with *Indian Corn*, &c.—Dampier, 'Voyage' (1698), i. 40. (N.E.D.)

1774 H. [The country people] live upon coarse bread made of rye and *corn* mixed, and by long use they learn to prefer this to flour or wheat bread.

K. What *corn*?

H. *Indian corn*, or, as it is called in Authors, Maize.

K. Ay, I know it. Does that make good bread?

H. Not by itself, Sir; the bread will soon be dry and husky; but the Rye keeps it moist.—Dialogue bet. Thomas Hutchinson and George III., July 1: 'Hutchinson's Diary,' i. 171 (1883).

**Corn—contd.**

1817 The growers of "corn" (Indian corn) and other grain sell at this season.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 161 (Phila.).

1840–1888 See ACKNOWLEDGE THE CORN.

**Corn-** in combination. The N.E.D. gives, without examples, *Corn-ball*, *-broom*, *-cutter*, *-fodder*, *-hook*, *-knife*, *-oyster*; with examples, *Corn-blade* (Webster, 1828), *-brake* (1844), *-fritter* (1891), *-sheller* (1858, O. W. Holmes), *-shuck* (Thorpe, c. 1860), *-stalk* (Pickering, 1816), *-starch* (1862).

**Corn-basket.**

1819 [The Indian women and children] are arranging the *corn-baskets*, cooking utensils, fire-arms, &c.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 1: from *N.Y. Evening Post*.

**Corn-cob.** See quotation 1775.

1767 I take a *cobb* every morning, and a Basket full of Ears, and go out and shell 'em to the Sheep.—*Boston-Gazette*, Jan. 19.

1775 The inner part of the ears of corn, which is properly the receptacle of the seed, and called the *cobs*.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 128.

1812 A Mill to grind Corn and *Cob* and Plaister.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, Nov. 25.

1817 Cobbett. (N.E.D.)

1823 The corn [is] grated from the *cob* by means of the side of a tin lanthron [*sic*], or some portion of an old coffee pot punched full of holes.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Expedition,' ii. 298.

1827 A *cob* [the man from the Middle States] calls a *corn-cob*.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 28: from the *Berkshire American*.

1829 Hogs are usually fattened with Indian corn, given whole on the *cob*.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 30.

1835 Between his left forefinger and thumb he held a *corn-cob*, as a substitute for a stopper.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 25.

1856 He was employed in whittling a *corn cob* bowl into a pipe.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 145.

**Corn-cracker.** A Kentuckian.

1837–40 Haliburton. (N.E.D.) See EEL.

1840 People in the Atlantic States know as little about the high and beating heart of the Mississippi Valley, as we Buckeyes, *Corn-Crackers*, and Hooshiers do about Nova Zembla.—*Cincinnati Chronicle*, Aug. 26.

1848 There is a swarm of "suckers," "hoosiers," "buckeyes," "*corn-crackers*," and "wolverines" eternally on the *qui vive* [in Wisconsin].—'Stray Subjects,' p. 79.

**Corn-crib.** A barn for holding ears of maize.

1809 If they will establish a non-intercourse with my *corn-crib*, they will find their account in it.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 6.

1819 A *crib* was literally blown to pieces, and several ears of corn carried to the distance of a mile.—*Id.*, Sept. 15.

**Corn-crib—contd.**

1824 [Mr. John Randolph] thought it was time that every member, who did not intend to rely upon the public *crib*, but be fed out of his own corn-house, should go home and plant his corn.—*Mass. Spy*, April 21: from the *Baltimore Patriot*.

1830 The *corn-crib* attached to the tavern was blown down.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 30.

1849 Washington Irving. (N.E.D.)

**Corn-dodger.** See DODGER.

**Corn-julce.** A low grade of whiskey.

1848 Bartlett.

1857 Our planter takes more *corn-julce*, and, excepting a little dash at "chuck-a-luck," tempts fortune no farther.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlix. 525 (May).

a. 1871 [They were] sittin' on barrils an' histin' in *corn-julce*.—F. Bret Harte, 'Prosper's Old Mother.'

**Corn-pit.** The corn exchange.

1891 For a time this morning there was a panic in the *corn-pit*.—*Boston Journal*, Nov. 20. (N.E.D.)

**Corn-popping.** Roasting corn on a wire grater. See also POP-CORN.

1884 What romps they would have! what *corn-poppings*!—*Harper's Magazine* (Sept.), p. 610. (N.E.D.)

**Corn-shuck.** See SHUCK.

**Corn-stealers.** The hands. [Compare Hamlet's use of the phrase "pickers and stealers."]

1827 Give us a shake of your *corn-stealer*; why, you look out in sorts, Dorcas.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 24: from the *Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle*.

1857 I reckon I had a time of it with the old buck that [scarred] my *corn-stealer*, as they say out West.—S. H. Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 167.

**Corned.** Drunk. Grose, 1785. N.E.D.

1823 "Pretty well *corned*," and "up to anything,"  
Drunk as a lord, and happy as a king,  
"Blue as a razor" from his midnight revel,  
Not fearing muskets, women, or the devil.

*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 22

1824 The first half of this quatrain is quoted in the *Missouri Intelligencer*, Feb. 21. It no doubt "went the rounds."

1825 Unless he had his skin full of whiskey, and well "*corned*," as we say. . . . The fellow was pretty handsomely "*corned*," as my friend has it.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' pp. 75, 212 (Lond.).

1837 Hot corn is good for something, and so is corned beef; but I'd like to know what's the use of a *corned* cobbler.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 188.

1840 William McG. brought a load of corn to market, and got *corned* on the strength of it.—*Daily Pennant* (St. Louis), May 27.

**Corned**—*contd.*

- 1840 The liquor ran into a pig-pen where there were about sixty hogs. The animals immediately began to drink, with the relish of old toppers, and continued drinking till the whole drove had become *corned pork*.—*Id.*, July 1.
- 1840 Tobias was just clearly on the wrong side of the line which divides drunk from sober ; but Hardy was "royally *corned*" when they met.—A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 160.
- 1842 About forty men, "pretty well *corned*, and up to everything," entered the liquor-room.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xix. 122 (March).
- 1842 *How to Corn Live Pork*. Set a prime mint julep before a corner rowdy. Two mint juleps are [usually] needed.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, May 16.
- 1847 Forward comes the witness, a fat, shuffy old man, a "leetle" *corned*, and took his oath with an air.—W. T. Porter, 'Sketches,' p. 166 (Phila.).
- 1857 Thomas, who was pretty well *corned*, asked F. to accompany him home.—*San Francisco Call*, April 25.

**Corner.** A temporary monopoly of some commodity : resembling on a large scale that "engrossing" which was punishable at common law.

- 1853 He is the greatest of all men for a "*corner*."—'Captain Priest,' p. 249.
- 1857 When a party is made up to buy a large amount of stock [so as to inflate the market], it is called a *corner*.—*Hunt's Merchants' Mag.* (N.Y.), xxxvii. 135. (N.E.D.)
- 1870 The "*corner*" in stock-broking is well explained by James K. Medbery, 'Men and Mysteries of Wall Street,' pp. 87-101 (Boston), in which he describes two or three great "*cornering*" operations.
- 1888 Creating a shortage, or what would practically be a *corner*, in sugar.—*N.Y. World*, Feb. 14 (Farmer).

**Cornering.** The manipulation of a "*corner*."

- 1841 No *cornering*, I hope.—'A Week in Wall Street,' p. 27 (N.Y.).
- 1845 They would no doubt have reached a high standing in the practice of what is called *cornering*.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' i. 135.
- 1857 The managers of the stock *cornered*.—*Hunt's Merchants' Magazine*, xxxvii. 135. (N.E.D.)
- 1910 In the meantime it is doubtful whether the question of "*cornering*" the May option in this market has ever been seriously discussed.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 28.

**Corner,** to drive into a corner.

- 1824 *Cornered up* so unexpectedly, she candidly confessed.—*Mass. Spy*, April 21 : from the *Trenton Emporium*.
- 1841 Catlin. (N.E.D.)
- 1844 When the whigs were *cornered*, and compelled to show their hand, they denied, &c.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Representatives, March 6 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 404, Appendix.



**Corner-boy.** See quotations.

1855 Presently the *corner-boy*, Jerry, comes in. He is a short-haired, half-Irish boy ; one of that numerous race which is growing up in our city between lawyers' offices, the haunts of washerwomen, and corner publication shops.—Donald G. Mitchell, 'Fudge Doings,' ii. 47 (N.Y.).

1882 The Dublin loafers, or "*corner boys*," as they are called.—*Standard*, Sept. 7. (N.E.D.)

**Corner Grocery.** See GROCERY.

**Corner lot.** One facing on two streets.

1829 A *corner lot*, 29 feet by 79, with a store on it, centrally situated in New York City, was sold for \$45,000.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 19.

1852 A "*corner lot*," being more valuable for a shop or warehouse, [was] considered equally so for a private dwelling.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 40 (N.Y.).

**Cornwallis, v.** See BURGOYNE.

**Corral.** An enclosure for horses or cattle. Sp.

1845 (June 25.) On the eastern side of the fort is an additional wall, enclosing ground for stables and *carrell*.—Joel Palmer, 'Journal,' p. 28 (Cincinnati, 1847).

1846 The wagons were what is called *corraled*, an anglicized Spanish word, the significance of which in our use of the term is that they were formed in a circle.... A Spanish *corral* is a common cattle or horse pound.—E. Bryant, 'What I Saw in California,' p. 19 (London, 1849).

1847 The waggons formed into a *corral*, or square, and close together, so that the whole made a most formidable fort.—Ruxton, 'Adv. Mexico,' p. 177 (Bartlett).

1850 A "*Corral*" is an inclosure where horses are kept or tamed, and branded with the owner's mark.—James L. Tyson, 'Diary in California,' p. 72n. (N.Y.).

1853 Men have had their horses stolen out of their stables, or out of their *carals*.—Brigham Young, May 8 : 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 108.

1853 Build a strong fort, and a *corral*, to put your cattle in ; then the Indians cannot get them away from you.—*Id.*, July 31 : 'Journal,' i. 166.

1860 We drove the horse before us, and finally he walked into the *corral*, as we wished.—James C. Adams, 'Adventures,' p. 247 (S.F.).

**Corral, v.** To enclose or capture.

1860 I want to "*corel*" you for a little chat. — *Knickerbocker Mag.*, lv. 100 (Jan.).

1860 I wish you to build a stockade large enough for *corralling* your cattle outside the town.—Brigham Young in Cache Valley, June 9 : 'Journal of Discourses,' viii. 290.

1860 Before we got *corralled*, and the cattle chained, two of our men were shot down.—Letter to *Oregon Argus*, Nov. 24.

1869 She had to be "*corraled*" in a house by herself.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 171.



**Corral**—*contd.*

- 1869 In all classes, from the most learned to the least favored in letters, the same expressive Westernisms are in common use. If a man is embarrassed in any way, he is "*corraled*." The Indians "*corral*" men on the plains; the storms "*corral*" tourists in the mountains; the criminal is "*corraled*" in prison; the tender swain is "*corraled*" by crinoline; the business man is "*corraled*" by debt, or more enterprising competitors; the unfortunate politician is "*corraled*" by the mountaineers, the gulchmen, or the settlers; the minister is "*corraled*" when he is called to become the pastor of a congregation; and the gambler "*corrals*" the dust of the miner.—*Id.*, p. 210.
- 1878 They got the wagons *corraled*, and dug rifle-pits.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 306.
- 1888 We will *corral* some of the ice-cream.—*N.Y. Times*, Dec. 30. (N.E.D.)

**Co-sovereign.** A word coined by Jefferson.

- 1793 He proceeds to act as *co-sovereign* in the territory.—Tho. Jefferson, 'Writings' (1859), iv. 45. (N.E.D.)
- 1820 [The constitution] has wisely made all the departments co-equal and *co-sovereign* between themselves. — Tho. Jefferson to Mr. Jarvis, Sept. 28.

**Co-State.** Also a Jeffersonian coinage. A fellow-state.

- 1798 This commonwealth does therefore call on its *co-States* for an expression of their sentiments....The rights and liberties of their *co-States* will be exposed to no dangers. —Thomas Jefferson, Resolutions relative to the Alien and Sedition laws: 'Works,' ix. 471 (1859).
- 1841 There is meaning in those words, "Empire State," when used among *co-estates*, more than meets the ear.—John Q. Adams in the House of Repr., Sept. 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 433. App.

**Cottonwood.** See quotation, 1817.

- 1817 I walked along the river, and was much struck with the vast size to which the *cotton wood tree* grows. (Note.) *Populus angulosa* of Michaux, called by the French *Liard*.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 15.
- 1823 N.E.D.
- 1830 Three beavers were seen cutting down a large *cottonwood tree*.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 4.
- 1847 *Cottonwood trees* are planted on either side of the way.—'Life of Benjamin Lundy,' p. 71 (Phila.).

**Count in or out.** To include or exclude.

- 1808 The judges were proceeding to "*count out*" his antagonist, [a fighting cock].—*The Repertory*, Boston, Aug. 2.
- 1854 When it comes to hunting grizzlies on a pony, jist "*count me out*."—*Knick. Mag.*, xliii. 643 (June.)
- 1857 "I propose," said she, "that we all just empty our pockets, and shew what we've got." "Good," says Hiram, "*count me in*."—*Id.*, xlix. 185 (Feb.).
- 1859 In these days of daring "Balloonry," the Knickerbocker is to be "*counted in*."—*Id.*, liv. 559 (Nov.).

**Country.** See quotation 1820. This usage is old. The N.E.D. furnishes instances dating about A.D. 1297, 1330, 1380, &c.

- 1780 Absconded, a Negro Fellow of *the Angola country*.—Advt., *Royal Georgia Gazette*, Sept. 28.
- 1783 Came to my plantation, on Wampree Savannah, a few days ago, a Negroe fellow of *the Coromantee country*.—Advt., *South Carolina Gazette*, June 3.
- 1784 There appear to be great natural stores of sulphur and salt *in this country*.—John Filson, 'Kentucke,' p. 31.
- 1785 The people of Kentucky have *in their country* a militia of 5,000 fighting men.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 6.
- 1789 *The Kentucke country*, which in the Indian language imports bloody, was established into a separate district in 1782.—'American Museum,' v. 58.
- 1780 The hills near the river are of an indifferent quality, compared with what *in this country* is esteemed good land.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 17.
- 1790 Several persons lately from *the Ohio country*.—*Id.*, Sept. 23.
- 1793 Notice of a "Post-Road to *the Genesee Country*."—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., May 22.
- 1794 To be sold, the noted Estate, called Johnson Hall, lying in *the Mohawk country*, state of New York.—*Id.*, April 24.
- 1796 61,000 acres, in *the Genesee Country*, for sale.—*Mass. Spy*, April 6.
- 1799 In this year 'A description of the Settlement of *the Genesee Country*' was published in New York.
- 1820 The word *country* is used by our people in a manner peculiar to themselves. When we say "*this country*," we do not mean North America, nor any State, but a particular section of country, frequently of indefinite extent. Thus that part of Kentucky which lies south of Green River is called *the Green River country*; a part of Illinois, lying upon the Sangamon River, is called *the Sangamon country*; the province of Texas is called *the Texas country*; and a part of the state of New York used to be called (and may be yet) *the Genesee country*.—James Hall, 'Letters from the West,' p. 201 (London).
- 1824 They are bound to *the Genessee country, Ohio or Michigan country*.—*New Bedford Mercury*, May 28.
- 1826 Many of these families [in Missouri] were to me almost the same as the more endeared families of *my native country* (New England).—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' pp. 191–192.
- 1830 A large tract in what is now called *the Susquehanna country* was struck off to him.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 24.
- 1835 If you was to talk that way to a white man *in my country*, he'd give you first-class hell.—'Colonel Crockett's Tour,' p. 45 (Phila.).
- 1854 Any one who gets up a row *in our country*, catches particular fits.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 184.
- 1855 They were told that *the Santee country* was the land of milk and honey.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' p. 455 (N.Y.).

**Cover into.** To pay into.

1884 The bribe was "*covered into* the Treasury."—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 53. (N.E.D.)

**Cow-boy.** This word, at first simply meaning a boy who looks after cows, acquired an opprobrious meaning in the War of the Revolution. (See quotation from Thacher.) When the great cattle-ranches of the West were created, the cow-boy became a picturesque and vivacious personage.

1725 Justices o' quorum,

Their *cow-boys* bearing cloaks before 'um.

Swift to Stella. (N.E.D.)

1775-83 Banditti within the British lines have received the names of *Cow-boys* and Skinners.—Thacher, 'Military Journal' (1823), p. 285. (N.E.D.)

1802 Every *cow-boy* in Scotland attempts to become an author, and with the effrontery of Beelzebub they will venture neck and limb on writing a book.—'Letters to Alexander Hamilton, King of the Feds,' p. 15 (N.Y.).

1825 The tories! the skinners! the *cow boys*! the white boys! —John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 115.

1825 He has brought six or seven *cow-boys* to the halter, for burning up your house, I am told.—*Id.*, ii. 445.

1842 This reminded Mr. Gentry (of Tenn.) of a certain gang of people in the days of our Revolution, who were then called "*cow-boys*," who fought neither for Whigs nor Tories, but sold beef to both.—House of Repr., March 28: *Cong. Globe*, p. 363.

1844 "Our Jake," an interesting specimen of the genus "*cow-boy*," . . . clears the bars of the last lingering herd trooping to pasture.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 182.

1856 [President Buchanan] like the *cowboys* of the Revolution, can see nothing right in his own people, and nothing wrong among their opponents.—Mr. Washburne of Maine, House of Repr., Dec. 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 36, App.

1857 The driver threw aside the dignity of his office, and fraternized with the *cow-boy*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, l. 291 (Sept.).

1884 The latest troubles between *cow-boys* and Indians will cause an outbreak. —*Miles City* (Montana) *Press*, June. (N.E.D.)

**Cow-catcher.** A fender placed in front of an engine.

1838 This machine is used in the U.S., and is termed a "*cow or horse catcher*."—*Railway Mag.*, p. 185. (N.E.D.)

1842 The engine came suddenly in contact with a small wagon, loaded with fish, relieved the horses, threw aside the driver, and absolutely brought the fish safely into Camden on the *cow-catcher*.—Phila., *Spirit of the Times*, June 25.

1851 The "*cow catcher*," which adorns every train.—Lady E.'S. Wortley, 'Travels in the U.S.,' p. 142 (N.Y.).

1856 The *cow-catcher* of some snow-bank-breaking locomotive. —*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 346.

1888 The *cow-catcher* and headlight of a west end locomotive.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 24 (Farmer)

**Cow-hide, cow-skin.** A whip of that material ; hence, as a verb, to flog.

1789 If they are negligent, you will give them the *cowskin*.—*'American Museum,'* v. 92.

1799 I am a constable, and may therefore kick, cuff, beat, bruise, *cowskin*, or kill any man I please.—*The Aurora*, Phila., May 20.

1801 Dinah was armed with a *cow-skin*, while Cloe had nothing but the simple weapons of nature.—*Mass. Spy*, June 24.

1801 She made me strip off my short gown, and gave me a severe whipping with a *cow-skin*.—*Id.*, Sept. 2.

1801 The *cow-skin*, or the horse-pond, is, perhaps, the best argument.—*The Port Folio*, i. 180 (Phila.).

1803 You must have no sensibility,—no, none at all ; you must whip, flog, cut, slash, hickory, and *cow-skin*, all the same : wisely keeping in mind that it is better to be the butcher than the calf.—*Id.*, Nov. 30.

1806 Pointing with the end of his *cow-skin* to a gentleman . . . walking before them.—*Corr.*, *Balt. Ev. Post*, Sept. 16, p. 3/1.

1809 A green or untanned *cowskin whip*.—*The Repertory*, Oct. 6 (Boston).

1818 The enraged barrister, with a hand-whip, or *cow-hide* as they are called, . . . actually cut his jacket to ribbons.—M. Birkbeck, *'Letters from Illinois,'* p. 69 (Phila.).

1824 He took up a *cow-hide*, and applied it to his back.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, May 31.

1825 Teach a slave to labor for the love of liberty, . . . and you will soon find that the *cow-hide* is an unnecessary appendage to an overseer.—*Corr.*, *New Harmony Gazette*, Oct. 15, p. 19/3.

1832-4 Dacia, that needed *cow-hiding* for insolence.—De Quincey, *'The Cæsars.'* (N.E.D.)

1838 Who can blame her for reporting that Charleston ladies carried *cowskins* in their pockets ?—Caroline Gilman, *'Recollections of a Southern Matron,'* p. 260.

1855 He got his skin well beaten,—*cow-hided*, as we may say—Carlyle, *'Misc.'* (1857), iv. 356. (N.E.D.)

1857 His lady had *cow-hided* him in the streets of his native city.—Thomas B. Gunn, *'New York Boarding Houses,'* p. 215.

1859 Nobody has a right to *cow-hide* you.—J. G. Holland, *'Titcomb's Letters,'* p. 183.

**Cows come home, when or till the.** An indefinite time.

1610 Drinking, eating, feasting, and revelling, *till the cow come home*, as the saying is.—*'Pope Joan,'* Harl. Misc., iv. 95. (N.E.D.) Also Swift, 1738.

1824 We were resolved to keep it up *till the cows come home*.—*Old Colony Memorial* (Plymouth), March 6.

1841 [I declared] that, never having voted for [Mr. Rives's] election myself, I never would, if I were in the Legislature ; no, not "*until the cows come home*."—Mr. Wise of Virginia, House of Repr., Jan. 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 288, App.

**Cows come home, when or till the—contd.**

- 1860 I could stand here and speak of Henry A. Wise of Accomac *until the cows come home*, but I won't do it.—Speech of Mr. Goode in the Democratic State Convention: *Richmond Enquirer*, Feb. 28, p. 3/1.

**Coyote.** (Name apparently of Mexican origin.) The prairie wolf. *Notes and Queries*, 6 S. x., xi.

- a.1628 Hernandez, 'Anim. Mex. Hist.' (1651). N.E.D.  
 1793 *Coyotl* seu vulpes Indica.—Pennant, 'Hist. Quadr.', i. 257. (N.E.D.)  
 1834 The little gray *collotes* or prairie wolves, who are as rapacious and as noisy as their bigger brethren.—Albert Pike, 'Sketches,' p. 14 (Boston).  
 1846 A species of jackal, called here the *coyote*, frequently approached within a few rods of us.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I Saw of California,' p. 219 (Lond., 1849).  
 1850 The *coyotes* or prairie wolves kept up an incessant angry barking around us, but not sufficient to break our slumbers. . . . They have a frightened, thievish, sneaking look, and are of a tawny color, about the size of a bull-terrier, some larger and some smaller.—James L. Tyson, 'Diary in California,' pp. 60, 67 (N.Y.).  
 1850 Horses, staked out with the leather or hide lariats, are often set free by the gnawing teeth of these *coyotes*.—Theodore T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Regions,' p. 135 (N.Y.).  
 1852 The carcass of a mule, upon which a horde of *cayotes* had been regaling.—*Knickerbocker*, xxxix. 225.  
 1852 He who has slept sweetly in the dense forests of the far and mighty West, with a pack of howling "*Cayotes*" around him, cannot be disturbed by the barking of contemptible puppies.—Mr. Weller of California, U.S. Senate, July 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 797. App.  
 1860 A saucy *coyote*, not worth a charge of powder.—James C. Adams, 'Adventures,' p. 77 (S.F.).  
 1860 The *News* urged, with all the power of its half-rat and half-*kiota* howl, the election of Douglas. — *Oregon Argus*, Oct. 6.  
 1860 You may guess there was but little meat on it when the *kiotas* left it.—Letter to *Oregon Argus*, Nov. 24.  
 1888 The *coyotes* never let up until they have taken aboard so much rabbit-meat that they can hardly stir.—*S.F. Examiner*, March 22 (Farmer).  
 1888 Buffalo, antelope, blacktail deer, *coyote*, jack-rabbits scurried out of our way. . . . Scarcely a skulking *coyote*, hugging the ground, and sneaking into gulches, can be discovered during a whole day's journey. — Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' pp. 661, 663.  
 1899 Even in that bitter weather he brought in enough foxes, swifts, and *coyotes* to make me a large robe.—Mrs. Custer, 'Boots and Saddles,' p. 112.

**Coyote-diggings.** Small shafts sunk by poor miners.

1857 The *coyote-diggings* require to be very rich to pay. — Borthwick, 'California,' p. 138 (Bartlett).

1867 This is called *coyoting*, from the supposed resemblance of the openings to the burrows of the coyote.—J. A. Phillips, 'Mining,' p. 164. (N.E.D.)

**Crab.** A fast horse. Obsolete.

1848 I took her out to Harlem,—  
On the road we cut a swell,  
And the nag we had before us  
Went twelve miles before he fell ;  
And though, ven he struck the pavement,  
The " *crab* " began to fail,  
I got another mile out  
By twisting of his tail.

' Stray Subjects,' p. 108 (Phila.).

1852 He does not keep a " fast *crab* " now.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 20 (N.Y.).

1857 A calm, frosty, moonshiny night ; a clipper of a sleigh under you ; a pair of " fast *crabs* " before you. — *Knick. Mag.*, l. 436 (Nov.).

**Crab-grass.** The glasswort.

1829 [It was] the identical *crab-grass*, which was such an abundant and troublesome inmate in their cornfield.—Timothy Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 72 (Boston).

**Crab-lantern.** A small turnover pie (Bartlett).

1818 At the oven [in Kentucky] children wait for their *crablantern* and cobble.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 106 (Boston, 1824).

**Crack, to walk a.** (A crack or line in the floor ?)

1825 I intended to go and set up for a member of congress, when I had qualified myself by being able to *walk a crack* after swallowing half a gallon of whiskey.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 118 (Lond.).

1902 He could *walk a crack* with a gallon sloshin' about in 'im. —W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 73.

**Crack up.** To praise extravagantly.

1835 [You might make the bear] pass for what you *cracked him up to be*.—D. P. Thompson, 'Adventures of Timothy Peacock,' p. 111 (Middlebury).

1837 (June 24.) One of the lodgers at the hotel [at Louisville] in true Kentucky style remarked that the Galt House *was not after all just what it was cracked up to be*.—John A. Clark, 'Gleanings by the Way.' (Italics in the original.)

1844 You *cracked Tompkins up*. Tompkins pretends to be great shakes, don't he ?—Joseph C. Neal, 'Peter Ploddy, &c.,' p. 137 (Phila.).

1844 We must be *cracked up*, Sir, retorted Chollop in a tone of menace. You air not now in A despotic land. We are a model to the airth, and must be jist *cracked up*, I tell you.—'Martin Chuzzlewit,' chap. xxxiii.

**Crack up—contd.**

- 1851 You will find the Secretary of State [Mr. Webster] drinking wine with his lordship the minister plenipotentiary from Great Britain, and *cracking him up* as a very great man.—Mr. Cartter of Ohio, House of Repr., Feb. 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 684.
- 1855 It was not what trouting is *cracked up to be*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 306 (Sept.).
- 1855 [Some people say] We have not found Mormonism what it is *cracked up to be*.—Amasa Lyman at the Tabernacle, Dec. 2: 'Journal of Discourses,' iii. 142.
- 1857 Missouri is *cracked up to be* the greatest honey country that there is on the earth.—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, July 26: *id.*, v. 93.
- 1859 "Hog meat ain't what it's *cracked up to be*," said Captain Gray. — Mrs. Duniway, 'Captain Gray's Company,' p. 129 (Portland, Oregon).
- 1860 I half believe bees know how much they've been *cracked up* in Sunday Schools.—*Knick. Mag.*, lvi. 461 (Nov.).
- 1909 [A novel] which she heard some city folks *cracking up* once.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 4.

**Cracker.** A poor southern white. The whips used by some of these people are called "crackers," from their having a piece of buckskin at the end. (See quot. \*1835.) Hence the people who cracked the whips came to be thus named. (See 1838, 1842.) And the loose bonnets worn by the women came to be called "*cracker bonnets*."

- 1784 *The London Chronicle*, with reference to Maryland: "that hardy banditti well known by the name of *Crackers*."—(N.E.D.)
- 1808 "A *cracker planter*" sends verses to the *Savannah* (Ga.) *Museum*, which are reprinted in *The Balance*, Sept. 6, p. 144.
- 1836 The "*cracker*" soon discovered that he had caught a Tartar. [This was a native of Florida.]—*Knick. Mag.*, viii. 285 (Sept.).
- 1838 You jerk your whip like a *cracker woman*. (Note.) Appellation given to the back country people, who use long whips with their wagons, which they crack to stimulate the team.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 56.
- 1838 [She was] dressed in homespun, with a *cracker or cape bonnet* of the same material.—*Id.*, p. 131.
- 1842 We saw many of the country people coming into town; some on horseback, some in wagons, and some on foot. . . . Single-breasted coats without collars, broad-brimmed and low-crowned hats, and grey hair floating in loose locks over their shoulders, were among their peculiarities. . . . They are called by the townspeople *Crackers*, from the frequency with which they crack their large whips.—J. S. Buckingham, 'Slave States,' i. 210.



**Cracker—contd.**

- 1845 He then called up the bailiff, a tremendous looking *cracker*, wearing a broad brimmed hat, with crape. [A court scene in Georgia.]—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' i. 140.
- 1845 Now, called out the clown, if you want to see a *cracker's* head cracked. . . .—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 35 (Phila.).
- 1847 I met one of the "country *crackers*," as the backwoodsmen are called, who, having been to Wetumpka with a load of shingles, was on his way home.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxix. 433 (May).
- 1848 Under ther curious lookin *cracker-bonnets* [at Lowell, Mass.] thar was some lovely faces and eyes.—'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 131 (Phila.).
- 1852 A *cracker* has just lighted at my office. [For fuller quotation see CAHOOT.]—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 548.
- 1856 I was amused with Old Hundred's indignation at having to get out the carriage and horses to go over to what he called a *cracker* funeral.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' chap. xii.
- 1861 The operatives in the cotton mills [at Columbus, So Carolina] are said to be mainly "*Cracker girls*" (poor whites from the country).—F. L. Olmsted, 'Cotton Kingdom,' i. 273 (London).
- 1902 The *Crackers*, a name given to the poor whites of the South, formed a large part of the population. On one of my journeys I came to a *Cracker's* cabin, where a tall, gaunt man in hunting shirt and slouch hat was smoking his pipe and caressing the head of a deerhound. "Hallo, stranger," came the salutation, "be you a preacher?" "Yes," I answered. "Then I want to know if dogs kin go to heaven."—Bishop Whipple, 'Lights and Shadows,' p. 16.
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- \*1835 To the end of the lash is attached a soft, dry, buckskin *cracker*. So soft is the *cracker*, that a person who has not the sleight of using the whip could scarcely hurt a child with it.—Dr. J. W. Monett, in the Appendix to Ingraham's 'The South West,' ii. 288.

**Cracker.** A biscuit.

- 1773 Said Johnson bakes the very best sort of *crackers*.—Advt., *Newport Mercury*, Dec. 20.
- 1774 William Grinnell has to sell Ship-Bread, *Crackers* in barrels and kegs, &c.—*Id.*, Feb. 7.
- 1804 A fellow who follows the business of selling *crackers* in Philadelphia.—*The Balance* (Hudson, N.Y.), June 26, p. 215.
- 1810 *Naval Chronicle*. (N.E.D.)
- 1815 In his pockets were found an empty bottle, and a number of *crackers*.—*Mass. Spy*, July 26.
- 1820 A patent has been obtained at Philadelphia for moulding and baking *crackers*, and eighty are sold for 12 1-2 cents.—*Id.*, Feb. 2.



**Cracker**—*contd.*

- 1820 Milk and *crackers*, heated over again in the oven.—John Randolph to Dr. Brockenbrough, Feb. 24: 'Life,' ii. 133 (1851).
- 1827 [My breakfast] consists of a cup of tea and a *cracker*.—*Id.*, Jan. 20: ii. 284.
- 1835 For a cup of coffee you pay two cents, and another cent for a *cracker*.—*The Pioneer* (Rockspring, Ill.), July 17.
- 1857 You will see women, if their husbands have got fifty cents, who must buy *crackers* with it, or something nice.—Brigham Young, April 6: 'Journal of Discourses,' iv. 314.
- 1859 Under the influence of the *crackers* and sausage, he grew cordial and communicative.—'Professor at the Breakfast-Table,' chap. vii.

**Crank.** Ricketty, weak, shaky. Sc. 1802; also used by Carlyle (1831) of machinery. N.E.D.

- 1833 Nor should I wonder at serious accidents often occurring with those *crank* conveyances among the precipices and ravines of the mountains.—C. F. Hoffmann, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 45 (Lond., 1835).
- 1852 He spoke with such a *crank* voice, and stony face, as would have made us shudder.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xl. 158 (Aug.).

**Crank.** An eccentric person.

- 1888 Major Jackson exhibited that strong individuality which always accompanies genius, but which the world's stupidity characterizes only as eccentricity. In this age he would have been called a *crank*.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xvi. 44.
- 1904 All my friends say I'm a genealogical *crank*.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 210 (Harpers).
- 1910 This East Side which has created the moral forces that have swung elections, was largely discovered and revealed to the outside world through the efforts of the college settlements, the college investigators, the college *cranks* of every kind, who stir our disillusioned organs of public opinion to such high merriment.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 14.

**Crawfish.** See quotations.

- 1805 On the banks of the rivers and creeks are a great many *Cray-Fish*. This is a mischievous little creature to dams and water-courses, by digging holes which let off the water.—Thaddeus M. Harris, 'State of Ohio,' p. 117.
- 1823 Underneath the white clay, which an animal like a crab, but called a *crawfish*, throws up in numerous hills.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 283.
- 1826 Innumerable little cones of earth raised by the *crawfish*, a circumstance which is well known to indicate a cold and wet soil.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 265.

**Crawfish.** To wriggle out of a difficulty; to retreat.

- 1848 No sooner did they see the old British Lion rising up from his lair and shaking the dew-drops from his mane, than they *crawfished* back to 49° [in the Oregon matter].—Mr. Goggin of Virginia, House of Repr., Feb. 1: *Cong. Globe*, p. 277.

**Crawfish—contd.**

- 1853 Of course I *crawfished*.—*Daily Morning Herald* (St. Louis), Feb. 5.
- 1856 If you don't allow that there's been no such publication, I'll *crawfish*.—'Phoenixiana,' p. 208.
- a.1860 We....retreat, retrograde, *crawfish*, or climb down.—*Cairo Times*, n.d. (Bartlett).
- 1888 He *crawfished* out of the issue by claiming that he didn't drink.—*S. F. Examiner*, March 22 (Farmer).
- 1902 They may try to make me take back water, but I never did *crawfish*.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 103.
- 1909 The witness continued: "I didn't want to *crawfish*."  
"You didn't want to *crawfish*?" from Mr. Fitzgerald;  
"I believe the correct pronunciation of that is *crayfish*."  
"Well, *crawfish* is good enough for common people."—*The Oregonian*, Oct. 14.

**Crazy as a bed-bug.** This ungenteel simile is occasionally varied by calling the insect a "Kalamazoo bed-bug."

- 1861 Hartford is getting to be quite a sensation city, going it over every novelty, "*as crazy as a bed-bug*."—*Winsted Herald*, Oct. 25 (Bartlett).

**Crazy as a loon.**

- 1848 A body what never seed a opery before would swar they was every one either drunk or crazy *as loons*.—'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 102 (Phila.).
- 1854 The old man 'll run *as crazy as a loon* a-thinkin' 'bout his household affairs.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 140.

**Crazy-quilt.** A quilt of patchwork.

- 1886 What is generally called "*crazy quilt*" in the States, and patchwork in England.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, Nov. 12. (N.E.D.)
- 1908 Henrietta says: "Now, grandma, you've got to make a *crazy quilt*; you've made every other sort that ever was heard of." Finally I says: "Here, child, take your pieces. If I was to make this the way you want me to, they'd be a *crazy quilt* and a crazy woman too."—'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 77.

**Crease.** To stun an animal by sending a shot through the cartilage at the back of the neck.

- 1807 We fired at a black horse, with an idea of *creasing* him.—Pike, 'Sources of the Mississippi,' ii. 159. (N.E.D.)
- 1823 [We hoped] to have an opportunity to prove our skill in the operation of *creasing*. A method sometimes adopted by hunters is to shoot the animal through the neck, [taking] care not to injure the spine.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Expedition,' ii. 138 (Phila.).
- 1835 In attempting to "*crease*" the animal, he shot it dead.—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' i. 226 (Lond.).

**Crease—contd.**

1851 In hunters' parlance, I had only "*creased*" the stag.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 127 (N.Y.).

1853 The "*creasing*" of a horse is a feat which would electrify a northern jockey. [Process described.]—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 38.

**Creek.** (Pronounced *Crick*.) A small river. The word occurs in the Pennsylvania Archives, 1674. (N.E.D.)

1737 Savannah stands on a flat bluff, so they term any high land hanging over a *creek* or river.—John Wesley. (N.E.D.)

1753 We had a tedious and very fatiguing passage down the *creek*....The *creek* is extremely crooked.—George Washington's Journal: *Mass. Spy*, Oct. 24, 1793.

1775 Further south is the mouth of another river, called *spruce creek*.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 267.

1784 A bend of Kentucke River, in which this little river, or rather large *creek*, rises.—John Filson, 'Kentucke,' p. 18.

1788 In this distance fall into the Ohio two very considerable *creeks*, called Little Muskingum and Duck Creek; in the spring season they are navigable for boats more than twenty miles.—News from the Ohio, *Mass. Spy*, June 19.

1789 The first bottom[s] or interval[s], upon the *creeks*, are not equal to those upon the larger rivers.—*Id.*, June 11.

1796 It is a *creek*, and has a smart current, and is a most noble mill stream.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Aug. 23.

1802 What contributes much to the beauty of Kinderhook is the *creek*, which runs along the east side of the town.—*The Balance*, Hudson, N.Y., Jan. 19, p. 17.

1817 Even the smaller branches were swollen into large *creeks*.—*Boston Weekly Messenger*, Aug. 21.

1820 Ravines, at the bottom of which flow small streams or brooks, here called *creeks*.—Zerah Hawley, 'Tour' (Ohio), Oct. 20. (New Haven, 1822, p. 32.)

1830 Two *creeks* or little rivers in Cattaraugus County cross each other at right angles.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 3.

1838 The harbour of Buffalo is formed of one of those *creeks*. Go there, and you will find this *creek* for nearly a mile covered with steamers, ships, &c.—Speech of Mr. Marvin in Congress: *The Jeffersonian* (Albany), Sept. 15, p. 246.

1869 The rivers of Pharpar and Abana (mere *creeks*) run through Damascus.—Mark Twain, 'New Pilgrim's Progress,' chap. xiii.

**Creole.**

1851 *Creole* is a word signifying "native," and applies to all kinds of men and things indigenous to New Orleans.—A. Oakey Hall, 'Manhattaner in New Orleans,' p. 17.

**Creole cane.**

1836 Three species of sugar-cane, the old *Creole*, the Otaheitan, and the Batavian.—Tr. Humboldt's 'Travels,' xiv. 168. (N.E.D.)

1837 The *creole cane* is said to produce the most sugar, but it requires a longer season than either of the other kinds.—John L. Williams, 'Territory of Florida,' p. 106 (N.Y.).

**Crescent City.** New Orleans.

- 1835 I have termed New-Orleans the *Crescent city*, from its being built around the segment of a circle formed by a graceful curve of the river.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' i. 91.

**Crevasse.** A breach in a levee.

- 1819 *Edinburgh Review*, xxxii. 240, with reference to the Mississippi River. (N.E.D.)
- 1829 These *crevasses* cut their way through the banks with so much ease, and from such small beginnings, that hardly any degree of vigilance affords perfect security. Water-rats infest these banks, and it is said that many *crevasses* have been caused by their holes.—Basil Hall, 'Travels in N. America,' iii. 347.
- 1835 There have been instances where "*crevasses*," as they are termed here, have been gradually worn through the levee.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' i. 79.
- 1837 A *crevasse* may be made even by a reptile, which will let in the waters of the Mississippi, till whole counties are inundated.—Speech of S. S. Prentiss: 'Life,' by Shields.
- 1850 A moral *crevasse* has occurred; fanaticism and ignorance,—political rivalry,—sectional hate,—strife for sectional dominion, have accumulated into a mighty flood, and pour their turgid waters through the broken constitution.—Mr. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, U.S. Senate, Feb. 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 149, App.
- 1859 You descend in the "lead" or "*crevasse*," until pay-dirt is reached.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Cherry Creek, Kansas Territory, June 18.
- 1861 When the bank gives way, or a *crevasse*, as it is technically called, occurs, the damage done to the plantations is sometimes to be calculated by billions of dollars.—W. H. Russell, 'Diary,' May 31.
- 1866 The flood is running off, and this is a North Carolina *crevasse*.—Nichols, 'Story of the Great March,' p. 229.
- 1888 The excitement and rush of all the household to the *crevasse*, the hasty gathering in of the field hands, and the homely devices for stopping the break, &c.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 55.

**Cripple.** A dense thicket.

- 1705 [Part] upland, the rest swamp and *cripple* that high tides flow over.—'Penn and Logan Correspondence,' i. 234. (N.E.D.)
- 1832 Through that *cripple* browsed the deer; in that rude cluster of rocks and roots [was] sheltered the deadly rattle snake.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of New York,' p. 57.

**Critter, creature.** The degeneration of this word is curious. As the illustrations show, the term "creature" was specially applied to a horse; then, as "creatur" or "critter," to an Indian, a "bar," a "painter," or any kind of "varmint"; and in course of time to a contemptible person; a "pisen critter" being particularly low in the scale of contempt. Also used good-humouredly. See Appendix XII.

**Critter, creature—contd.**

- 1782 Stolen, the following *Creatures*, viz. one a bay Horse, the other a half blooded black Mare.—*Maryland Journal*, July 30.
- 1786 Broke into the pasture of the Subscriber, Two Bay *Creatures*, the one a Horse, the other a Mare.—*Id.*, Jan. 6.
- 1788 A valuable breeding Mare, and several young *Creatures* nearly of the same strain.—*Id.*, March 4.
- 1819 I found he meant his pair of horses, or *creatures* as he called them.—“An Englishman” in *The Western Star : Mass. Spy*, May 12.
- 1827 The *creatur's* are in open view ; and a bloody band of accursed Siouxs they are.—J. F. Cooper, ‘The Prairie,’ i. 80 (Lond.).
- 1827 I reckon in futur you'll hitch your *creter* to the rack afore Patty Pott's door, she havin' larnt edification at boardin' school.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 24 : from the *Augusta* (Ga.) *Chronicle*.
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- 1836 My little *critter* [a mustang,] who was both blood and bottom, seemed delighted.—‘Col. Crockett in Texas,’ p. 149 (Phila.).
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- 1836 The next moment, when I expected to find the tarnal *critter* [a cougar] struggling with death, I beheld him shaking his head, as if nothing more than a bee had stung him.—‘Col. Crockett in Texas,’ p. 153.
- 1837 With reference to a female volunteer, the *Picayune* says : “She is all sorts of a *critter* at fighting.”—Phila. *Public Ledger*, March 10.
- 1838 In a few hours, having gathered up my fixens and mounted my *creeter*, I was threading a narrow pathway through the forest.—E. Flagg, ‘The Far West,’ i. 190 (N.Y.).
- 1839 I remember once being wakened by a *creetur*. The dumb thing was standing right over me, looking into my face.—C. F. Hoffman, ‘Wild Scenes,’ i. 40 (Lond.).
- 1839 “I presume there's no occasion for hurrying,” said the driver. “Yes, there is though, you *pisen critter*,” said a passenger.—C. F. Briggs, ‘Harry Franco,’ i. 18.
- 1842 *A Queer Critter*. One of the clerks in the Baltimore Post Office, on opening a bag of letters, discovered a live garter-snake in the same. The *critter* bore no postmark or frank.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, July 28.

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- 1847 I tracked the *critter* out of the field to the woods, and all the marks he left behind showed me that he was the bar.—T. B. Thorpe, 'The Big Bear of Arkansas,' p. 25 (Phila.).
- 1848 The "*critter*" [a steer] was found quietly consuming clover in an outhouse.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 77 (Phila.).
- 1848 Ah me! a weary *critter*  
Was the sad barkeeper then;  
Just thinking was he of his bed,  
When entered those two men.  
*Id.*, p. 70.
- 1849 [The Georgian] strode a right smart chance of a *critter*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxiv. 113 (Aug.).
- 1851 The principal hero is "not a handsome *critter*," as the Yankee said when asked his opinion of the first alligator he ever saw, "but there's a good deal of open-ness when he smiles."—*Id.*, xxxvii. 92 (Jan.).
- 1853 The rooms below [were occupied] by the animals, or, as a Yankee would call them, the *critters*.—C. C. Felton, 'Fam. Letters' (1865), p. 249. (N.E.D.)
- 1854 Old Mrs. Peabody was allers a dreadful highfalutin *critter* with stuck-up notions.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Dec. 23.
- 1855 If it is proven before the High Council that you did steal a beef *creature*, don't get angry, but rise up and acknowledge that you did steal it.—Brigham Young, Oct. 5: 'Journal of Discourses,' iii. 49.
- 1856 I soon found out that if cousin Zeph hadn't much gump-tion, he was the best *critter* in the world for rite down hard work.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 2.
- 1857 This here *critter* can run the legs off any dog as ever stuck to a deer's tail.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 68 (Jan.).
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- 1862 We give the *critters* back, John,  
Cos Abram thought 'twas right.  
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["The critters" were Messrs. Mason and Slidell.]

**Crook.** A sharper.

- 1886 The photographs of several English cracksmen, along with one of a New York *crook*.—'American local newspaper.' (N.E.D.)

**Crook the elbow or the finger, to.** To take a drink.

- 1830 O no, he keep um in de closet on de sideboard, and ebbery nite (he *crooks his elbow* and mimics) you may hear glug, glug, glug.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 13: from the *Constitutionalist*.
- 1836 William Martin was fined for, as he quaintly expressed it, *crooking his little finger* too often.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Aug. 2.

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- 1782 Stolen, the following *Creatures*, viz. one a bay Horse, the other a half blooded black Mare.—*Maryland Journal*, July 30.
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**Crook the elbow or the finger, to—contd.**

1842 Hugh McDonald and John Smith (not of Arkansas) were fined for *elbow-crooking*.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Jan. 14.

1852 He *crooked his fore-finger*, and told the girl to make him another bowl.—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 356 (Oct.).

**Crookneck.** The *cucurbita maxima*.

1801 So pretty a neck, I'll be bound,  
Never join'd head and body together,  
Like a *crooked neck'd squash* on the ground,  
Long whiten'd by winter-like weather.  
‘The Port Folio,’ i. 264 (Phila.).

1818 Upwards of ten tons of the best *crook-necked* winter Squashes.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 11.

1841 Over the fire-place was our *crooked-necked* squashes.—‘Lowell Offering,’ i. 79.

1848 Agin the chimbly *crooknecks* hung,  
An' in amongst 'em rusted  
The ole queen's-arm thet gran'ther Young  
Fetched back from Concord busted.

J. R. Lowell, ‘The Courtin’.’

1856 Hams, dried pumpkins, *crooknecks*, and the usual comforts of rural life.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 148 (Feb.).

1860 Cantelopes, *crooknecks*, and cucumbers.—Emerson, ‘Cond. Life,’ p. 66. (N.E.D.)

**Cross-cut saw.** A two-handled saw.

1768 The lightning was attracted by a *cross-cut saw* lying against the chimney.—*Mass. Gazette*, Aug. 25.

1824 With hair the color of a whisp of straw,  
And a disposition like a *cross-cut saw*.  
*Somerset (Me.) Journal*, Feb. 27: from the *Providence Journal*.

1824 Two men with what is called a *cross-cut saw* (or a saw with two handles) will saw more wood, &c.—*Mass. Yeoman*, March 31: from the *New England Farmer*.

**Crotch.** A fork, or point of division in a road or in a river.

1767 The river to be called by the same name, from the *crotch* to the mouth.—T. Hutchinson, ‘History of Mass. Bay,’ ii. 383. (N.E.D.)

1802 A good stand for a Blacksmith at 80 rods distance, in a *crotch* of roads.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, Sept. 29.

1857 Now you see I'm at the *crotch* of the roads, don't you?—J. G. Holland, ‘The Bay Path,’ p. 266.

**Crow.** Used in 1844 as an emblem of the Democratic victories in Georgia and Ohio.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Oct. 18.  
See also BOILED CROW.

**Crowd.** To push or press. Now dial. in England. See also SCROUGE, a corrupted form of the word.

1830 He was carting timber, and stepped upon the cart tongue to *crowd* some sticks back with his feet.—*Mass. Spy*, July 14.

**Crowd.** To dun for payment.—Webster, 1828. (N.E.D.)

1853 [I have never] distressed a man for what he owes me, or *crowded* any person in the least.—Brigham Young, Dec. 5 : 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 340.

**Crowd.** Any company of people ; the following of a political "boss."

1840 I became satisfied that Democracy had but few charms for that *crowd*.—Mr. Watterson of Tenn., House of Representatives, April 2 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 376, Appendix.

1846 He did not know a single soul in the *crowd*, although he knew we were all bound for the Rio Grande.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 122.

1855 [There was] no sign that this particular "*crowd*" were cognizant, &c.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 31.

1855 The witness can't remember as he hilt any hand at all, with bully hands out, and him the best player in the *crowd*—*Oregon Weekly Times*, July 28.

1856 I am on board of the other boat. I am in the Fillmore *crowd*.—Mr. Thompson of Kentucky, U.S. Senate, July 1 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 731, Appendix.

1857 He was one of the most favorable specimens of that *crowd*.—Borthwick, 'California,' p. 195 (Bartlett).

1858 He said he and his *crowd* prayed nigh onto four hours.—*Harper's Weekly*, Sept. 11.

1909 There was only cold comfort for the *Flynn crowd*.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 18.

1910 It has not been denied that the stand-patters have been waging war against Secretary MacVeagh, and, unfortunately, the President has shown himself only too ready to play into the hands of the Aldrich "*crowd*."—*Id.*, April 11.

**Crow's foot.** A badge worn on the sleeve of a Harvard student.

1835 The corded *crow's-feet*, and the collar square,  
The change and chance of early lot must share.  
Class Poem, cited by B. H. Hall, 'College Words,' p. 145 (1856).

\* **Cruiser.** A man who "cruises round" in search of victims and plunder. A TIMBER-CRUISER, one who explores land for others, to find out where the best timber lies.

1842 One of the prisoners was recognized as an old thief, the other as a Shippen Point *cruiser*.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Sept. 14.

**Cruller.** A kind of biscuit.

1814 A pack containing a few shirts and any quantity of *crullers*.—Sol Smith, 'Autobiography,' p. 11 (1868).

1818 The crisp and crumbling *cruller*.—W. Irving, 'Legend of Sleepy Hollow.' (N.E.D.)

1847 Other dainties awaited us as the result of killing hogs. They were "dough-nuts" and "wonders," the latter being known to you under the name of *crullers*. I can find neither word in Webster.—Dr. Drake, 'Pioneer Life in Kentucky,' p. 97.

**Crusting.** See quotation, 1839.]

1839 *Crusting* is the term applied to taking large game amid the deep snows of winter, when the crust of ice which forms upon the surface after a slight rain is enough to support the weight of a man, but gives way at once to the hoofs of a moose or a deer.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Wild Scenes,' i. 92 (Lond.).

1860 Deer are taken extensively by a process called *crusting*.—Gosse, 'Rom. Nat. Hist.,' p. 207. (N.E.D.)

**Cuba.** An imaginary animal ?

1781 The *Cuba* I suppose to be peculiar to New-England. The male, of the size of a large cat, has four long tushes, sharp as a razor.—Samuel Peters, 'History of Connecticut,' p. 251 (Lond.).

**Cucumber-tree.**!

1784 The *cucumber-tree* is small and soft, with remarkable leaves, [and] bears a fruit much resembling that for which it is named.—John Filson, 'Kentucke,' p. 23.

1806 Can you send me some cones or seeds of the *cucumber-tree*?—Tho. Jefferson, 'Writings' (1830), iv. 63. (N.E.D.)

1806 [In Kentucky] sugar maple, the coffee, the papaw, the hackberry, and the *cucumber tree* every where abounded.—Thomas Ashe, 'Travels in America,' ii. 278 (Lond., 1808).

1820 The timber is....black walnut and *cucumber tree*. This last bears a fruit somewhat resembling a cucumber in form, of a red or almost scarlet colour, and about an inch long, which is used as a bitter by the people here, and is a tolerably good tonic.—Zerah Hawley, 'Tour' [in Ohio], p. 33 (New Haven, 1822).

**Cullaloo.** See quotation.

1810 [Mr. Green, in his Mississippi garden] made me observe some ginger in a thriving state, and the *cullaloo* or Indian Kail, &c.—F. Cuning, 'Tour,' p. 297 (Pittsburgh).

**Cultus.** This word, in the "Chinook jargon," means worthless. An early resident of Oregon has told the writer that an Indian, describing any one as "cultus," would move his shoulders, sink his body, and execute an indescribable pantomime. Also, he would disparage the value of a gift he brought, saying it was "cultus."

1855 The eggs were examined, pronounced *cultus*, and found no sale.—*Weekly Oregonian*, July 28.

1857 Davis and Monnastes advertise in the *Oregon Weekly Times* that they can do "all manner of wrought and cast work ! From a Steam Engine and Boiler down to Shoeing a " *Cultus* " Cayuse Horse ! "

1884 The *Cultus* Codfish, *ophiodon elongatus*, is mentioned in the Report of the U.S. Fishery Commission, p. 267. (N.E.D.)

**Cumberland Presbyterians.** A sect opposed to a college-trained ministry.

1826 [Kentucky] and the neighbouring state of Tennessee, have given origin to a new sect, called " *Cumberland Presbyterians*."—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 75.

**Cumtux.** To understand. (Chinook jargon.)

1853 We want small gold. Do you *cumtux*?—*The Columbian* (Olympia, W.T.), Jan. 1.

1856 I presume you *cumtux* who I mean.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Jan. 5.

**Cunning.** "Cutely" pretty.

1854 My eye had been caught by some *cunning* little tubs and pails in a window.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Sunny Memories,' i. 161. (N.E.D.)

1865 No stocking curbed her *cunning* toes,  
Nor hid her heel 'neath silken hose.

*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxx. 295.

**Cup.** A swamp. Local.

1823 He would have bought from Mr. B., but could get only a "*cup*," that is, a swamp.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 284 (Lond.).

**Cupalo** for CUPOLA: so **Gundalo** for GONDOLA. These errors are not uncommon.

1767 Wanted, a sett of good Hands, to load and tend on a *Gundalo*.—*Boston Gazette*, Sept. 21.

1789 A *gondalo*, deeply laden.—*Mass. Spy*, July 9.

1835 [These boats] resemble the "Down East" *gundalow* (gondola) so common on the rivers of Maine.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' i. 105.

1835 Iph they'll turn out a *cupilo* on four legs, we'll run him down.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 227 (Phila.).

1845 Two red-brick pillars guard the door,  
And for a splendid show,

To hold the weathercock on top  
They've clapped a "*cu-pa-lo*."

*Knick. Mag.*, xxv. 123 (Feb.).

**Curbstone broker.** A small dealer in stocks.

1861 All sorts of brokers, from the leading houses down to the *curbstone* "*operator*," known as the "*hyena*" or "*Bohemian*" of the street.—*Knick. Mag.*, lvii. 635 (June).

1886 Both of these men are *kerbstone brokers*.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, May 14. (N.E.D.)

**Cush.** See quotation.

1821 Among the fish caught at Wolfborough Bridge, Dr. Dwight mentions "*cush*, 1 to 4 pounds."—'Travels,' iv. 161

**Cuspadore.** A spittoon. Since the use of tobacco for chewing became common, some name for the necessary receptacle had to be found. Smollett in 'Roderick Random' (1748) writes of "a convenience to spit in." Rows of spittoons may be seen on any Saturday, outside many country meeting-houses in the U.S., ready to be placed in the pews; and the writer has seen a few on the graded seats for apostles, bishops, &c., in the Mormon Tabernacle, though they are not great chewers.



**Cuss—contd.**

- 1867 General Gibbs was nearly numb while marching beside me, and, when he found I was perfectly comfortable, exclaimed, "Well, you are a warm-blooded *cuss*."—Letter of General Custer, April 3: Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 524.
- 1869 These Mexicans [she said] were dead-alive sort of *cusses*. The men had no grit, and the women no jingle.—J. Ross Browne, 'Adventures,' p. 182 (N.Y.).
- 1873 The impecunious *cuss* knows there is five dollars waiting for him.—J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 573 (Phila., &c.).

**Cussedness.** Mischief, malignity.

- 1866 *Cussedness*, meaning *wickedness*, *malignity*, and *cuss*, a sneaking, ill-natured fellow, in such phrases as "He done it out o' pure *cussedness*" and "He is a nateral *cuss*," have been commonly thought Yankeeisms. . . . *Cursydnese*, in the sense of malignant wickedness, occurs in the Coventry Plays.—J. R. Lowell, Introd. to the 'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series.
- 1875 The depraved mule rejoices in his heart if he can make some one miserable. It is a trait for which in the West they have a specific term. They call it *cussedness*.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 554.
- 1877 The Constitution is about to be used once more by the Democrats as a screen for "pure *cussedness*."—*New York Tribune*, May 12 (Bartlett).

**Cuss-words.** Oaths and curses.

- 1872 He didn't give a continental for anybody. Beg your pardon, friend, for coming so near saying a *cuss-word*.—Mark Twain, 'Innocents at Home,' p. 20 (Farmer).
- 1878 Hard names, "*cuss words*," stove-wood, and other missiles flew about.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 434.
- 1888 He didn't have a gun strapped to his back, and he didn't use *cuss-words*.—*Detroit Free Press*, Sept. 15 (Farmer).
- 1893 The old lady, with another string of "*cuss words*," would jump out of the weeds.—Alex. Majors, 'Seventy Years on the Frontier,' p. 22.

**Cut dirt.** To depart rapidly; the idea being that the horse-hoofs make the dirt fly. Mr. Farmer claims an early example in "a negro song," 1829.

- 1833 I must *cut dirt* for some place where there's more room.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' i. 158 (Lond.).
- 1833 *Cut dirt*, stranger, for your life; there's a whirlwind coming.—*Id.*, i. 223.
- 1834 Last year the regulators swore for him, and he *cut dirt* I tell you.—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' i. 62 (N. Y., 1837).
- 1836 After boarding a day or two, and running up a bar-bill he "*cut dirt*," and left mine host of the Eagle to whistle for his pay.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, April 27.

**Cut dirt—contd.**

- 1836 The little critter [a mustang] *cut dirt* in beautiful style, I tell you.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 150 (Phila.).
- 1840 If ever you saw waxworks *cut dirt*, they cut it then.—A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 185.
- 1862 Gen. Floyd at Fort Donelson tried to make the rebel soldiers cut a new intrenchment. They felt weary, and refused. O, very well, said he, if you won't *cut dirt*, I will.—*Missouri Democrat*, March 17.
- 1862 Why, two-thirds o' the Rebbles 'ould *cut dirt*,  
Ef they once thought thet Guv'ment meant to hurt.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 2.

**Cut no lee.** "That cuts no ice"; equivalent to "is of no consequence," "makes no difference." Modern slang.

**Cut a swath.** To cut a figure.

- 1855 [He] might better have *cut just as big a swath* somewhere else.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 617 (Dec.).
- 1888 He carried things with a high hand, and *cut a big swath*.—*Boston Weekly Globe*, March 28 (Farmer).

**Cut up.** To play pranks.

- 1859 I believe I never did *cut up* so bad any one week as I did that week.—H. W. Beecher, 'Notes.' (N.E.D.)

**'Cute.** Acute, smart. This form of the word seems to have originated in England, being found in Bailey's Dictionary, 1731. See also quot. 1779. It has become universal in America.

- 1779 You're a *cute* girl, and mayhap may be able to make something of him.—Mrs. Cowley, 'Who's the Dupe.'
- 1806 A "*cute*" old gentleman in that street.—'Spirit of the Public Journals,' p. 61 (Baltimore).
- bef. 1812 Now, he continued, I've read Goldsmith's 'History of Rome; that's rather a *cute* book, I reckon. And then there's them volumes of Josephus—han't you never read 'em? And then there's the Nat'ral History, Buchan's Med'cin, and Lindley Murray's Grammar. Them are all judgmatical books, I reckon. I never have read no rumances or poetry, but two, — Pilgrim's Progress, and Robinson Crusoe; don't see there's much genius in 'em; them are too "belittling," as Mr. Jefferson says, for a man to read. [This was in Vermont.]—John Bernard, 'Retrospections of America,' p. 325 (Harpers, 1887).
- 1825 Says I to the marchant, says I, "how'll you swap watches?" —So then says he to me, "sharp off the reel";—as *cute* a feller that as I ever seed.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 156.
- 1831 So if any one wants a *cute* lad  
Fra Yorkshire, who just now of age is,  
Here I be now to be had,  
I don't want a great deal of wages.  
Hudson's 'Comic Songs,' Coll. 12 (Lond.).







**Cut-off—contd.**

- 1866 (Land) I took it afoot across the country by a settlement road they called the "*cut-off*." Devil of a *cut-off* it was to me.—Charles H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 127.
- 1875 (Water) In my own time a *cut-off* was made at American Bend, which shortened the river ten miles or more.—Mark Twain, 'Old Times on the Mississippi': *Atlantic Monthly*, p. 193 (Aug.).
- 1881 (Land) The Company is building a *cut-off* six miles in length near Omaha.—*Chicago Times*, May 14. (N.E.D.)

**Cutteau, Cuttoe.** A knife. Fr. Couteau. The N.E.D. furnishes English examples, 1678, 1685. Nearly obs. now in the U.S.

- 1771 Advt. of a Public Vendue of "Pen-knives, Razors, *Cuttoes*, Jack Knives, &c."—*Boston Evening Post*, March 4.
- 1772 Joshua Gardner sells "Thimbles, *Cuttoe knives*, &c."—*Mass. Spy*, April 9.
- 1777 Lost, or Lent....A neat case of pistols, and *Cutteau du Chasse*.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Nov. 25.
- 1778 He had with him....two razors and one *cutteau-knife*, all new.—Runaway advt., *id.*, Oct. 20.
- 1784 James Hendricks & Co. sell "pen, pocket, pruning, and *cutteau knives*."—*Virginia Journal*, July 25.
- 1851 Judd's 'Margaret.' (N.E.D.)
- 1854 I sprang to my feet—drew forth my *cutto*—circulated the same with much vivacity among their several and respective corporeal systems, and every time I circulated the same I felt their iron grasp relax.—Joseph G. Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 110.

**Cutter.** A light sleigh.

- 1811 The horse and *cutter* advertised in your paper has been found....The post bags which were in the *cutter*, &c.—*Mass. Spy*, May 1.
- 1836 The usual equipages of the double sleigh and *cutter*.—'Backwoods of Canada,' p. 207. (N.E.D.)
- 1857 How I longed for a dashing American *cutter*, with a span of fast horses!—Bayard Taylor, 'Northern Travel,' p. 155. (N.E.D.)

**Cut-worm.**

- 1816 The ravages of the grub or *cut-worm* have been uncommonly ruinous.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 20.
- 1817-18 No patching after the *cut-worm*, or brown grub. —Cobbett, 'Resid. U.S.' (1822), p. 187. (N.E.D.)
- 1835 Wickliff was as keen as a *cut-worm*.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 73 (Phila.).

**Cypress knees.** See KNEES.

## D

**Daboll.** The name of Nathan Daboll was at one time very familiar in the U.S. He published almanacks and works on arithmetic for about forty years, beginning with 1785. Some of them can be seen at the British Museum.

1823 Daboll's Arithmetic is advertised in the *Mass. Spy*, Oct. 8.

1836 It is alluded to, *Knickerbocker Mag.*, vii. 400.

1838 Pike's Arithmetic was to be exchanged for Daboll's.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 194.

a.1848 More requires more, according to Daboll and the devil. ....Any other number in Daboll's Arithmetic.—Dow. Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' 1st S., pp. 63, 75.

1851 And so through the whole, as Daboll's arithmetic says.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 15 (Phila.).

1853 Do make some distinction between your Bible and your Daboll, your Shakespeare and your City Directory.—'Fun and Earnest,' p. 265 (N.Y.).

1855 "How does it Daboll, Mr. Flipkins?" "The three columns are equal; they foot up precisely the same."—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlv. 100 (July).

**Dadfetch me!** A vulgar imprecation.

[1834 I'll be *dad shamed* if it ain't all cowardice.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 216 (N.Y.).]

1845 *Dadfetch me* if I's the chap to be fooled with petticoats.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 67 (Phila.).

1845 I knows the C.'s like a book; and Ill be *dadfetched* if ther was sign of a C. in that buggy.—*Id.*, p. 74.

1845 "Oh yes," exclaimed Si, "*dadfetch* your everlastin picter!"—*Id.*, p. 114.

1845 See CHINKAPIN.

**Dago.** A foreigner of the working class and of Latin race: usually an Italian or a Spaniard. See *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. ii. 247, 332, 351.

1832 These *Degos* [of Minorca,] as they are pleasantly called by our people, are a great pest.—E. C. Wines, 'Two Years and a Half in the Navy,' i. 101 (Phila.).

1858 "And so, Bill, you served as a ingineer with these ere blamed *dagos*, you say. Now du tell how you like 'em." "Wal, Nathan, pritty well, considerin' they are *dagos*."—*Knick. Mag.*, li. 7 (Jan.).

1888 The shrimps are caught by *Dagos*.—*The American*, July 18 (Farmer).

**Daily.** A daily newspaper. (Apparently of American origin.)

1833 "Make out an estimate of the cost of establishing a paper." "A *daily*, sir?" "Ay, a *daily*, if you wish."—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' ii. 94 (Lond.).

1858 Clever weeklies and less clever *dailies*.—*The Times*, Nov. 29. (N.E.D.)

**Daisy.** A choice specimen. Slang.

1888 Beyond compare a pugilistic *daisy*.—*Denver Republican*, May (Farmer).

**Dander.** Passion, temper. Another form of *dandruff*. See quotations 1801 and 1853.

1801 A certain disorder in the head, called by the learned the *dander*, or *dandriff*.—‘*Spirit of the Farmer’s Museum*,’ p. 278.

1832 My *dander* began to rise, and I could not hold in any longer.—Seba Smith, ‘*Major Jack Downing*,’ p. 178 (1860).

1837–40 He was fairly ryled, and got his *dander* up.—Haliburton, ‘*The Clockmaker*’ (1862), p. 31. (N.E.D.)

1843 Whenever you feel your *dander* rising, [said the New England deacon] be sure to say the Lord’s prayer, or else the alphabet clean through.—*Knickerbocker*, xxii. 122 (Aug.).

1846 Wut’ll make ye act like freemen?  
Wut’ll git your *dander* riz ?

‘*Biglow Papers*,’ No. 1.

1846 Take care how you raise my *dander* ; I can shoot sum yet.—‘*Quarter Race in Kentucky*,’ p. 67 (Phila.).

a.1848 [Anger] is like a quick-tempered woman when her *dander* is up.—Dow, Jun., ‘*Patent Sermons*,’ i. 21.

1848 Smugglin means stealin, down in Georgia, and when he said that my *dander* was up in a minit.—‘*Major Jones’s Sketches of Travel*,’ p. 187 (Phila.).

1849 We are not very good judges of the state of the market, but we hear that ink is at a stand, and “*dander* is riz.”—*Frontier Guardian*, June 27 (Orson Hyde, editor).

1850 I war ‘tarmined on goin’ ; my *dander* was up, and I swore I wood go.—‘*Odd Leaves*,’ p. 172.

1851 My *dander* was up as big as an elephant.—‘*An Arkansas Doctor*,’ p. 56 (Phila.).

1851 The bull moose is a formidable foe when he “ gets his *dander* up.”—John S. Springer, ‘*Forest Life*,’ p. 124 (N.Y.).

1853 “ Well, what of it ? ” now yelled the Downeaster, getting his *dandruff* up.—*Daily Morning Herald* (St. Louis), March 14.

1860 They wrangled over the matter until the *dander* of each deacon arose to fever heat.—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*, n.d.

**Dandy.** Equivalent to *DAISY*, but much earlier in date.

1784 Her breath is like the rose, and the pretty little mouth of pretty little Tippet is the *Dandy* O.—George Colman, Song in ‘*Two to One*.’ (N.E.D.)

1794 My uncle Cuthbert blew out a prodigious puff of my *dandy* tobacco.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 27.

1796 At population honey who so handy,  
At that sport sure now Ireland’s not the *dandy*.

*The Aurora*, Phila., Sept. 30.

1806 Tell us about the race between Madam Thornton and Mr. Flint, and her challenging him after she got beat ; that’s the *dandy*.—*Spirit of Public Journals*, p. 14 (Baltimore).

**Dandy**—*contd.*

- 1822 The reader will suppose this was a *dandy* of a thing, since it was on writing paper, two columns with a border.—*Penna. Intelligencer* (Harrisburg), Dec. 3.

**Dangersome.** Dangerous. Obs. in England.

- 1850 I knew it war a *dangersome* place for a well man to go in, much less a one-leg cripple.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 172.  
 1851 [She] 'lowed it was *dangersome* for me to stay on the deck —'Widow Rugby's Husband, &c.,' p. 50.  
 1885 How to run in daylight without it being *dangersome* to Tim.—*Century Mag.*, xxix. 549. (N.E.D.)

**Dangue.** The same as DENGUE, q.v.

- 1837 The Tea Bincum [made from wild thyme] immediately cures the *Dangue*.—John L. Williams, 'Territory of Florida,' p. 100 (N.Y.).

**Danites.** See quotations.

- 1857 They suppose that there is a secret society existing there, called *Danites*, Shanpips, or Destroying Angels.—Mr. Morrill of Vermont, House of Repr., Feb. 24: *Cong. Globe*, p. 289, App.  
 1858 We recollect the representations of Governor Denver in Kansas last winter in regard to the existence of a secret military organization in that territory, which he calls the "*Danite* Society," in allusion to a similar organization among the Mormons....[Charles Leib] was one of the chief officers of Jim Lane's *Danite* society in Kansas, and was so reported by a committee of this body in 1856.—Mr. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, U.S.Senate, June 15: *id.*, p. 3056.  
 1862 If the enemies of the Mormons are to be trusted, they have a secret battalion of *Danites*, serpents in the path, destroying angels, who are banded for any deed of daring and assassination.—*N. American Review*, July (Bartlett).  
 1870 The Church has often used an order of secret police, popularly known as "*Danites*." This order was first instituted during the troubles in Missouri; it was remodeled in the third or fourth year of their residence at Nauvoo, and has been continued since.—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 389 (Phila., &c.). See also pp. 192-3.

**Dark and bloody ground.** Kentucky.

- 1833 [He had been in] those Indian wars which preceded the last expiring efforts of the kings of the woods, and which gave to the fertile fields of Kentucky the poetical name of "*the dark and bloody ground*."—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' i. 166 (Lond.).  
 1834 The fair portion of Kentucky known by this significant name is said to have been distinguished by a similar term even before the appearance of the whites.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' ii. 160 n. (Lond., 1835).

### Dark and bloody ground—*contd.*

- 1835 That beautiful region which was soon to verify its Indian appellation of "*the dark and bloody ground*."—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' i. 90 (Lond.).
- 1838 He was a pioneer of *the dark and bloody ground*, and many a time had followed the wild buck through those aged forests where Boone, and Whitley, and Kenton once roved.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 195 (N.Y.).

**Dark as a stack of black cats.** This excellent simile is nearly as good as that other, "Blacker than a funeral of negroes in a thunderstorm." (Dow, Jun., 4th Series, p. 212. )

- 1846 All was *dark as a stack of black cats*.—‘A Catfish Story,’ in the St. Louis *Reveille*, n.d.
- a.1853 You will go down, down, down, into the bottomless pit, that is *darker than a stack of black cats*.—Dow, Jun., ‘Patent Sermons,’ iii. 20.

**Darken one's doors.** This phrase appears to have been coined by Franklin.

- 1729 I am afraid she would resent it so as never to *darken my doors* again. — Benjamin Franklin, 'The Busybody': *Works* (1887), i. 341. (N.E.D.)
- 1748 Richardson's 'Clarissa.' (N.E.D.)
- 1855 Tom Horsey has not *darkened these doors* since March gone was a year.—W. G. Simms, 'Border Beagles,' p. 34 (N.Y.).
- 1856 It will be a long time before I *darken her doors* again.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlviii. 417 (Oct.).
- 1866 He had no intention of ever *darkening [that] door* again.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 330.

**Darkey.** A negro.

- 1775           The women ran, the *darkeys* too,  
And all the bells they tolled ;  
For Britain's sons by Doodle Doo  
Were sure to be—consoled.  
‘The Trip to Cambridge,’ in ‘Songs of the American Revolution,’ p. 100 (1856).
- 1840 The *darkey* tried to butt him.—R. H. Dana, ‘Before the Mast,’ p. 129. (N.E.D.)
- 1856           Ouch ! an awkward *darkey’s* basket  
Hit him a thump in the eye ;  
And stars are flashing before him  
Like orbs in a wintry sky.
- Knick. Mag., xlviii. 546.*
- 1857 The *darkey* population like strong medicines and big doses.—*Id.*, xlix. 275.
- 1861 [The flat-boat] was made of two-inch plank, and manned by two infirm-looking *darkies*, with frosted wool.—*Id.*, lviii. 317.
- 1862 Whereas old Abe ’ud sink afore he’d let a *darkie* boost him, Ef Taney shouldn’t come along an’ hedn’t introduced him.  
*‘Biglow Papers,’ 2nd S., No. 3,*

**Darkey**—*contd.*

1864 He immediately dispatched a "*dark*" to get [the book].  
—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxix. 191.

1864 There were many *darkies*, so called, in Plaquemine.—*Id.*, p. 231.

**Dasher.** A dash-board.

1856 He looked with a dubious expression at the broken *dasher*, swinging forward and back at every motion.—Sara Robinson, 'Kansas,' p. 173 (1857).

1858 O. W. Holmes, 'The One-Hoss Shay.' (N.E.D.)

**Daw-bug.** An undefined insect.

1837 Sonnet to a *dawbug*.—'Harvardiana,' iii. 361.

1843 I helped the *daw-bug* dig his hole,  
And burrowed for the poor blind mole.  
'Lowell Offering,' iii. 183.

**Daylight.** To make daylight shine through a person, *i.e.*, with a bullet-hole or a sword-thrust.

1774 [He] drew forth a Sword declaring he would *make Daylight shine thro' 'em*, but he would carry his Point.—Letter from Duxbury, Feb. 5 : *Boston Gazette*, Feb. 14.

1793 In the language of the streets, *daylight is let into him*.—A. Young, 'Example of France,' p. 172. (N.E.D.)

1825 If I ever meet that man again, he or I shall *have daylight shine through us*.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 266 (Lond.).

**Deacon, deacon off, &c.** The congregational "deacon" of New England has long been a subject of pleasantry : one of the best instances being afforded by Mr. Lowell in the character of Deacon Bitters, in his inimitable 'Fitz-Adam's Story,' 1867. To deacon-off a hymn or a metrical psalm was to "line it out." To deacon berries, to put the largest on the top. To deacon land, to extend one's fences fraudulently (Farmer). To deacon wine, &c., to adulterate it (Century D.). The word was frequently contracted to "Dea." or "Deac."

1791 With prayer the solemn work begins ;  
A song of Zion next succeeds ;  
And here the *deacon*, rising slow,  
Gravely proclaims the psalm, and reads.  
*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Sept. 14 : from the *Mass. Magazine*.

1793 The *deacon*, with too much apparent sanctity to be real, whined out the psalm line by line.—*Mass. Spy*, March 7 : from the *Concord Herald*.

1793 A *deaconish* story, and fair promises.—*Id.*, August 8.

1794 I should hate to have a *deaconish* fellow for a sweetheart, much more for a husband.—*Id.*, May 22.

1821 *Deac* Josiah Bridge is mentioned in the *Mass. Spy*, Feb. 28, and *Dea.* Ebenezer Read, April 4, "Died, Mrs. Judith White, 2d wife of *Deac.* Moses White."—*Id.*, May 23.

**Deacon, deacon off**—*contd.*

- 1822 I was very sorry to observe that our custom of lining out the hymn as sung scarcely exists [on the Atlantic Coast]; and that singing, in many cases, was profanely abandoned to the choir, as though praise at any rate might be done by proxy.—Letter of William Ward, *Mass. Spy*, Feb. 13.
- 1823 Some fifty years ago, it was the province of one of the *Deacons*, after the Psalm had been read from the pulpit, to repeat it line by line.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 8: from the *New Hampshire Sentinel*.
- 1831 It was the custom in many parts of New England to sing the psalms and hymns by “*deaconing*” them, that is, by the deacon’s reading each line previous to its being sung.—*Troy (N.Y.) Watchman*, Sept. 3.
- 1845 The insult was given by *deaconing out*, as the phrase goes, the following verses.—T. W. Coit, ‘Puritanism,’ p. 232. (N.E.D.)
- 1852 In the goodly village of Q. *Dea.* Pip lived.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xvii. 345.
- 1857 By some accident I heard that *Dea.* Bigpurse had a partner.—*Id.*, xxii. 282.
- 1856 It had been a custom [at Londonderry, N.H.] from earliest days to “*deacon* the hymn,” that is, the precentor read two lines, and then all sung them, and so to the end.—Lawrence, ‘New Hampshire Churches,’ p. 94.
- 1867       A deacon he, you saw it in each limb,  
          And well he knew to *deacon-off* a hymn,  
          Or lead the choir through all its wandering woes  
          With voice that gathered unction in his nose.  
                          ‘Fitz-Adam’s Story,’ *Atl. Monthly*, Jan.

**Deacon-seat.** The seat appropriated to the deacons, under the pulpit, facing the people; the “chief seat in the synagogue.” Hence, a long seat facing the fire in a logging camp. This use probably originated in Maine.

- 1851 Directly over the foot-pole, running parallel with it, and in front of the fire, is the *deacon-seat*. This seat constitutes our sofa or settee. . . . [The man] was laid upon the deacon-seat, and the wound was sewed up by one of the crew.—John S. Springer, ‘Forest Life,’ pp. 71, 115 (N.Y.).
- 1864 We sat down upon the *deacon-seat* before the fire.—J. R. Lowell, ‘Fireside Travels,’ p. 152. (N.E.D.)

**Dead bead.** See DRAW.

**Dead-beat.** A worthless fellow who tries to exist on other people’s resources.

- 1877 A system of local government controlled by . . . bummers, loafers, and *dead-beats*.—William Black, ‘Green Pastures,’ p. 325. (N.E.D.)
- 1882 Every tramp and *dead-beat* you’ve met.—F. B. Harte, ‘Flip,’ ii. (N.E.D.)



**Dead-broke.** Completely impoverished or exhausted.

1856 We hope that you won't be *dead-broke* before you leave.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlviii. 288 (Sept.).

1865 See FIGHT THE TIGER.

**Dead-fall.** A trap for large animals.

1611 Some do use to take them with hutches, or *dead-falls*, set in their haunts.—Markham, 'Countryman's Content,' (1668), i. 78. (N.E.D.)

1829 In the act of getting in, the log or *dead-fall* fell upon his back, and held him fast.—*Mass. Spy*, July 8.

1840 From what has been said, I should conclude that an Eastern gentleman, desirous of emigrating Westward, would esteem it necessary to provide himself with traps, snares, and the like; and when he should get there to use what in the western part of N. Carolina they call a *dead fall*, in order to catch and clear the country of squatters. — Mr. Howard of Indiana, House of Repr., Feb. 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 190, App.

1860 A continuance on the part of the Banks to issue specie would....catch us completely under the *dead fall* of Northern absorptive predominance.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 23, p. 1/8.

1909 It is not written in the book of graft that you walk right up to the *deadfall* and allow yourself to be shoved in.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 11.

**Dead-head.** One who does not pay; the holder of a free-ticket at a "show" or on a railroad. Hence to "dead-head" a person is to pass him along gratis.

1849 Mr. Root would inquire of the gentleman from N.Y. whether he took his passage and came on as what the agents sometimes call a "*dead-head*."....He would inform him that the term "*dead-head*" was applied by the steamboat gentlemen to passengers who were allowed to travel without paying their fare.—House of Repr., Jan. 9: *Cong. Globe*, p. 203.

1854 On the Little River Road they don't allow no *dead-heads*.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlv. 96 (July).

1855 The windows were crowded on the outside with *dead-heads*.—*Id.*, xlvi. 650 (Dec.).

1856 [The Indian said,] Me *dead-head*; Injun no pay; *poco mas arriba*.—*Id.*, xlviii. 501 (Nov.).

1857 I soon discovered [at a pew-auction] that no "*dead-heads*" were allowed on this line, and that if a man couldn't pay he was put off the train.—*Id.*, xlix. 643 (June).

1857 Last Sunday, in a western village, when the plate was being passed in church, a gentleman said to the collector, "Go on,—I'm a *deadhead*,—I've got a pass."—*Harper's Weekly*, July 11.

1858 The conductor concluded that it was the intention of the trio to *dead-head* one party through.—*Olympia (W.T.) Pioneer*, Aug. 27.



**Dead-head—contd.**

- 1866 My daddy sold goods on credit, about forty years ago, and when a customer run away, he used to codicil his name with "G.T.A.," gone to Arkansas. What a power of *dead heads* must have roosted in them woods on the other side of Jordan!—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 68.
- 1888 [Those letters] which had to do with the stage....went *dead-head*.—*Portland (Me.) Transcript*, March 14 (Farmer).
- 1903 [Edward Eggleston] objected on principle to all "*dead-heading*" of the clergy, and to all "discounts" made to preachers on the ground of their calling.—G. C. Eggleston, 'The First of the Hoosiers,' p. 263 (Phila.).

**Dead horses.** See quotation.

- 1832 [Most of us had not] worked out our *dead horses*. (Note.) *Dead horses* are debts due to the purser on account of advances of pay.—E. C. Wines, 'Two Years and a Half in the Navy,' i. 73 (Phila.).

**Dead rabbits.** A gang of ruffians who infested New York about 1855–60. The "Dead Rabbit Gang riot" occurred July 5, 1857.—See *N. Y. Evening Post*, March 4, 1909.

- 1858 A distinguished "Plug-Ugly" of Baltimore, and a highly talented "*Dead Rabbit*" of New York.—*Knick. Mag.*, lii. 431 (Oct.).
- 1859 Having been either semi-slain by *Dead-Rabbits*, or hustled by killers.—*Id.*, liv. 371 (Oct.).

**Dead wood, to have the.** See quotations.

- 1857 Let such men but have a sure thing, or, as Californians say, *the deadwood*, and they will bet their last farthing.—*San Francisco Call*, Jan. 7.
- 1858 "I *have the dead wood* on him" was used familiarly [in Kansas,] meaning, "I have him in my power."—A. D. Richardson, 'Beyond the Mississippi,' p. 134 (Hartford, 1867).
- 1872 He considered himself to possess the "*dead-wood*."—C. King, 'Mountains of Sierra Nevada,' p. 211. (N.E.D.)

**Deadening.** See quotation, 1843.

- 1800 There was a *deadening* on C.'s land as early as 1769.—Addison's 'Reports,' p. 306. (N.E.D.)
- 1843 If the majority of the trees are girdled [with deep cuts,] the field is called "a *deadning*"; otherwise it is a clearing.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 240.
- 1850 A few "*deadnings*," or clearings, with here and there a log cabin.—James Weir, 'Lonz Powers,' i. 51 (Phila.).

**Dear knows.** A euphemism for "The dear Lord knows," used in the North of Ireland, and in some parts of England. It may be called a piece of Presbyterian swearing. Singleton's explanation, *infra*, is mistaken. *Notes and Queries*, 8 S. xi. 5, 57, 175, 253.

- 1814 "*The dear knows*," for "the demon knows," is noted as a Philadelphianism by Arthur Singleton.—'Letters from the South and West,' p. 30 (Boston, 1824).
- 1876 "*Dear knows*," said Catharine, "when we shall see them back."—*White Cross*, xxxvii. 236. (N.E.D.)

**Dearborn.** See the first quotation.

- a.1820 Some very few had what was then called a "*Dearborn*," being a small vehicle for one horse, and without any top to it.—Peter H. Burnett, '*Recollections*,' p. 11 (N.Y., 1880).
- 1820 I don't live extravagantly—I keep a little *Dearborn wagon*, and now and then take a side box at the theatre.—*Mass. Spy*, March 15: from the *National Advocate*.
- 1820 Thomas Wentz advertises "*Steel-Spring Carriages, Dearborn Wagons*," &c.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, May 19.
- 1821 Jan. 5. Advertisement in the *Penna. Intelligencer* (Harrisburg) for the apprehension of a swindler, who had "bargained for and purchased a Sorrel Mare, and a Yankee Waggon or *Dearborne*," paying in bogus notes.
- 1833 [How would it answer] on a four-wheeled one-horse *dearbon*, hey? (*sic*).—John Neal, '*The Down Easters*,' i. 17.
- 1833 A *dearborn* [was] obtained to convey his family. —James Hall, '*Legends of the West*,' p. 186 (Phila.).
- 1833 The effects of the Yankee [emigrant] were generally limited to a *Dearborn waggon*, a feather-bed, &c.—C. F. Hoffman, '*A Winter in the Far West*,' i. 103 (Lond., 1835).
- 1835 The *dearborn* in which I was conveyed was no place for enjoyment, for the seat was so small that we were obliged to sit on each other in turn.—Andrew Reed, '*Visit to America*,' i. 404.
- 1836 A horse on Friday last ran away with a *dearborn*, in which was four persons.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, June 13.
- a.1840 Our cortege included several "*Dearborns*," similar in shape to the ambulances of the present.—Mrs. Clay, '*A Belle of the Fifties*,' p. 5 (N.Y., 1904).
- 1841 He had purchased at St. Louis a very comfortable *dearborn waggon*.—Catlin, '*N. American Indians*' (1844), ii. 81. (N.E.D.)
- 1846 The animal sprung, floundered, and pulled his best, and drew the waggon (the driver, by the way, called it a *dearborn*) about twice its length.—E. W. Farnham, '*Life in Prairie Land*, p. 49.
- 1846 Fourteen hacks and a *dearbourn* wagon at the tail of the funeral.—'*Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.*,' p. 49.
- Death on.** Exceedingly fond of or addicted to. Also (by an odd inconsistency) fatal to.
- 1842 We need not say that this medicine is *death on colds*.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, March 10.
- 1847 A long, lanky, cadaverous lawyer, who was *death on a speech*, powerful in chewing tobacco, and some at a whisky drinking.—'*Streaks of Squatter Life, &c.*,' p. 30 (Phila.).
- 1850 Never kill a harmless insect; give him a chance; but don't mind being "*death on*" skeeters.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxv. 90 (Jan.).

**Death on**—*contd.*

- [1850 "Purchase this [hat] for your mother," said the salesman to a rustic damsel; "it will make her look so dignified." "I'll certainly buy it, then," returned she, "for mammy has always been *hell on dignity*."—Mr. Foote of Mississippi, U.S. Senate, Jan. 31: *Cong. Globe*, p. 91, App.]
- 1853 Mayor How is *death on* hogs and dogs.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, April 26.
- 1853 "Got a smart chunk of a pony thar." "Yes, Sir, he is some pumkins sure; offered ten cows and calves for him; he's *death on* a quarter" [*i.e.*, a "quarter race." ]—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 44.
- 1855 Sally was *death on lace*.—Haliburton, 'Nature and Human Nature,' p. 225 (Bartlett).
- 1856 The District Attorney is *death on* every vessel that has the least smell of gunpowder.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 449 (1860).

**Decedent.** A deceased person. Scotch, 1599; also used by Bishop Wilson, 1730. (N.E.D.) Now obs. in England, but familiar in American law.

**Deck of cards.** The N.E.D. furnishes English examples, 1593–1885. The phrase, however, is practically obsolete in England, though it retains a lingering hold in the U.S.

- 1853 Whether he ever paid for his jug of whiskey and *deck* (pack) of cards, I could not find out.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 197.
- 1858 I was so kind as always to have a *deck* about me for the use of my friends.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxiii. 182.

**Declaration-men.** Those who signed the Declaration of Independence.

- 1821 I think [Mr. Adams] will outlive us all, I mean the *Declaration-men*, although our senior since the death of Colonel Floyd. It is a race in which I have no ambition to win.—Tho. Jefferson to Gen. Dearborne, Aug. 27.

**Deed, v.** To convey by deed.

- 1816 Pickering, in his Vocabulary, calls this colloquial, adding: "None of our writers would employ it." (N.E.D.) The word, however, has survived, and is in frequent use.
- 1854 I am going to *deed* all my property to the [Mormon] church; my wives and children shall not have it to quarrel about.—H. C. Kimball at the Tabernacle, April 2: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 153.
- 1855 Go and improve that farm, though I do not *deed* it to you.—Brigham Young, June 3: *id.*, ii. 304.
- 1855 Do I, as an individual, want to see the people *deed* all they have to the Church? It does not concern me individually.—Brigham Young, June 3: *id.*, ii. 306.
- 1855 [He] *deeded* to L. a valuable farm.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 71.
- 1861 I rented a portion of ground which we afterwards *deeded* to sister Emma.—Brigham Young, Feb. 17: 'Journal of Discourses,' viii. 337.

**Deef** for deaf. This survival, not entirely obsolete in England, is commonly met with in the U.S. and in Upper Canada, having been introduced perhaps from the north of Ireland. As late as 1717-18 the word was rimed with *relief* by Prior and Watts. (N.E.D.)

1824 I went close to one gal, an' axt her  
How much she should tax me 'er leaf ;  
I'll be choak'd if she'd give any answer ;  
I tell'd her I guess'd she was *deaf*.  
*Woodstock* (Vt.) *Observer*, Feb. 24 : from the *Brattleboro' Messenger*.

1825 "Is that female deaf?" "Yes, perfectly *deef*; hears nothin' but her child, I believe."—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 301.

1833 "Here I am, sir, I ain't *deef*, sir." "Who said you was?" —John Neal, 'The Down Easters,' i. 94.

1848 "Mr. B. must be a werry *deef* un," said a mariner.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 48 (Phila.).

1858 He might have been as "*deefer*" as a post, it seems to us, without greatly affecting his preaching.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, lii. 428 (Oct.).

1896 You're a-goin' to do what? I reckon I'm a-goin' a little *deef*.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 68.

**Demagogue**, v. To play the demagogue.

1656 When that same ranting fellow Alcibiades fell a *demagoging* for the Sicilian war.—Harrington, 'Oceana,' 143. (N.E.D.)

1850 In Ohio, the master-spirits of the party, while *demagoging* upon the stump, have promised the people, &c.—Mr. Olds of Ohio, House of Repr., July 24 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 946, App.

1854 There is as much *demagoguing* over [the slavery question] South as North; and it has been more than once used to put up or put down presidential candidates.—Mr. Brodhead of Pa., U.S. Senate, Feb. 28 : *id.*, p. 248, App.

**Dengue**. The break-bone fever.

1828 The Spanish fever, or "*Dengue*," from which there appears no exemption, . . . at once yields to a warm bath and hot teas.—Letter from N. Orleans, *Richmond Whig*, Aug. 5, p. 2/3.

1828 [Mr. Livingston ascribes his defeat to] the prevalence of the *Dengue* or Spanish fever at New Orleans.—*Id.*, p. 2/4.

1847 Craig's Dictionary. (N.E.D.)

**Departure**, a new. A fresh start.

1838 How the Government had taken a *new departure*, with the British form of government as its model, he had already attempted to show.—Mr. Brown of N. Carolina in the U.S. Senate, Feb. 23 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 164, App.

1839 My aim is fixed, to take a fresh start, a *new departure*, on the States Rights Republican tack.—John C. Calhoun, 'Works' (1874), iii. 399. (N.E.D.)

1840 How is this voluntary bankrupt to begin life again? How is he to take a *new departure*?—Mr. Hubbard of New Hampshire, U.S. Senate : *Cong. Globe*, p. 486, App.

**Depot.** A railway station.

- 1836 I arrived at the *Depot* of the Boston and Providence Railroad.—*Boston Pearl*, Jan. 23.
- 1837 Let any on ye come over to the Black Rock Rail-road *Dee-pott*, and I'll lick him like a d—n.—*Knick. Mag.*, ix. 68 (Jan.).
- 1842 To borrow the expression of a fellow-traveller, we were "ticketed through to the *depot*" (pronouncing the last word so as to rhyme with *teapot*).—Longfellow in 'Life' (1891), i. 415. (N.E.D.)
- 1848 Ther was a considerable bustle and fuss about the *depo*, gettin' reddy to start.—'Major Jones, Sketches of Travel,' p. 28 (Phila.).
- 1848 The *depo* was so close that I jest fit my way through the hack-drivers to the cars.—*Id.*, p. 57.
- 1848 When the cars got to the *depo*, they were surrounded as usual by a regiment of whips.—*Id.*, p. 83.
- 1848 Our victim struck a bee-line for the Providence *Depot*.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 65.
- 1849 Wal, they was tellin' of [the story] down to the *dee-pot*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxiv. 86 (July.)
- 1852           Vanity of Vanities  
                Climax of vexation,  
                Waiting for the cars  
                At a railroad station,  
                Thinking every moment  
                That the train will go,  
                Worrying out an hour  
                In a small *dépôt*.                   *Id.*, xl. 315 (Oct.).
- 1855           As a crowd, that near a *dépôt* stands,  
                Impatiently waiting to take the cars,  
                Will "clear a track" when its iron bands  
                The ponderous fiery hippogriff jars;  
                Yet the moment it stops don't care a pin,  
                But hustle and bustle and go right in.  
                So the half of the band that still survives  
                Comes up, with long moustaches and knives,  
                Determined to mince the Captain to chowder  
                So soon as it's known he's out of powder.  
   *Id.*, xlv. 337 (April).
- 1855 I went to the Rail Road *Depot* with a carriage next night.—*Waverly Magazine*, n.d.
- 1856 He had foreseen Mr. B.'s objections to the location of the *dépôt*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 60 (Jan.).
- 1857 I rode in the stage to the *dépôt*, and said to the stage-driver to stop.—*Id.*, xlix. 103 (Jan.)
- 1861 Ourn's the fust thru-by-daylight train, with all ou'doors for *deepot*.           'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 1.
- 1866 *Depots* were the centre of space; converging lines from every point of the compass made tracks to the offices of railroad superintendents.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 98.

**De-rail.** To throw (a train) off the track. The word, as a verb *trans.* and *intrans.*, is used by Lardner, 'Railway Economy' (1850), pp. 326-7. He says he adopts *derailment* from the French. The word, however, is more used in the U.S. than in England.

1888 The on-rushing train was *de-railed* and piled up in a huge mass.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 24 (Farmer).

1909 Train wreckers *derailed* the south bound express on the Arkansas, Louisiana, and Gulf Railroad.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 11.

**Desk.** A pulpit: occasionally, "the sacred desk."

1770 With what Frequency and Chearfulness did he ascend the *Desk*.—Notice of Whitefield's decease: *Mass. Gazette*, Oct. 1.

1772 —[That they] should select a Runagate to be their Monitor from *the sacred desk*.—*Boston Gazette*, Sept. 28.

1788 The man who thinks that every clergyman is a hypocrite would, were he admitted to *the sacred desk*, be a wolf in sheep's clothing.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 25.

1795 In obedience to your polite request, I appear in the *desk* —*Gazette of the U.S.*, Feb. 10 (Phila.).

1800 Why talk nonsense and political falsehood from *the sacred desk*?—*The Aurora*, Phila., Sept. 10.

1800 The President has as good a right to preach religion from the Speaker's chair, as you have to preach politics from *the sacred desk*.—*Id.*, Oct. 9.

1809 The pulpit, or, as it is here [in Connecticut] called, the *desk*, was filled by three if not four clergymen.—Kendall's 'Travels,' i. 4. (N.E.D.)

1811 The decalogue is hurried over in the *desk* with as little ceremony as the details of a fox-chase.—Letter quoted by Dr. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 440 (1821).

1821 Dr. Backus came to Somers soon after Ely left the *desk*.—*Id.*, ii. 276.

1821 We found in the *desk* a respectable clergyman from Scotland, who [preached] in the peculiar manner of the Seceders.—*Id.*, iii. 235.

1822 In Rhode Island, no sectarian preacher will permit an Unitarian to pollute his *desk*.—Tho. Jefferson to Dr. Cooper, Nov. 2.

1827 He seemed to have great ambition to get into the pulpit, and on one occasion informed me that the Rev. Mr. Wayland had requested him to officiate in his *desk*.—*Mass. Spy*, July. 18.

1835 [An] impressive style of oratory, which I should like to see more adopted in *the sacred desk*.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 65.

1838 As he sat down in the *desk*, he smoothed his bands, and then ran his eye over his sermon.—'Harvardiana,' iv. 350.

1841 Not only has the ermine been sullied, and the judgment seat been contaminated, but *the sacred desk* and the pulpit have been polluted.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Representatives, Jan. 26: *Cong. Globe*, p. 271, App.

**Desk—contd.**

- 1841 They saw the light burning brightly, and the honest clergyman sitting in his *desk*. — 'A Week in Wall Street,' p. 135. (N.Y.).
- 1843 A small-built gentleman was sitting in the *desk* of Chatham Chapel, with his head resting on his folded hands.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 80.
- 1846 I will ask the gentleman whether he thought that he who ministered at the sacred altar—who filled the *sacred desk*,—should indulge in [such] remarks.—Mr. Seaborn Jones of Georgia in the House of Repr., Dec. 21: *Cong. Globe*, p. 92, App.
- 1854 Those who convert the pulpit into the hustings, and profane the holy Sabbath by stump speeches from *the sacred desk*, seem to have forgotten, if they ever knew, the spirit and even the form of words appropriate to the place and the day.—Mr. Stephen A. Douglas of Ill., U.S. Senate, May 25: *id.*, p. 787, App.
- 1854 [Others have] their notions of what they call *the sacred desk*. All "Mormon" *desks* are sacred.—J. M. Grant at the Tabernacle, Sept. 24: 'Journal of Discourses,' iii. 65.
- 1863 A preacher "with a liberal mouth of gold" discourses from the *desk*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxviii. 317.

**Desk-room.** Hired space for a single person in a business office.

- 1870 Many of the operators, as well as the smaller brokers, have simply *desk-room*.—James K. Medbery, 'Men and Mysteries of Wall Street,' p. 117 (Boston).
- 1910 "Don't you lose time by living in Jersey?" "Not much," answered the Wall Street man. "I have *desk room* on a ferryboat."—*Louisville Courier-Journal*, May.

**Detur.** A gift of books as a reward, originating in the bequest of Edward Hopkins, in the year 1657, to Harvard College.

- 1806 Some in a *Detur* place their chief delight,  
While some in drinking choose to spend the night;  
Vacation, *Detur*, Sleep, nor midnight bowl  
Like Molly's smile could ne'er enchant my soul.  
*The Repertory* (Boston), Aug. 1.
- 1836 The "*deturs*" have been given out, and I have got Aken-side's Poems.—James R. Lowell, 'Letters.' (N.E.D.)
- 1849 Get a "*Detur*" by all means, and the square medal with its cabalistic signs.—Letter to a Young Man cited by B. H. Hall, 'College Words,' p. 158 (1856).

**Devil, v.** To bedevil, to plague, to ruin.

- 1652 The Serpent *devil'd* Eve.—Benlowes, 'Theoph.,' ii. 15. (N.E.D.)
- 1698 I'll *devil* you, you jade you!—Vanbrugh, 'The Provoked Wife.' (N.E.D.)
- 1823 Go tell the President how we are *deviled* and cheated.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 216 (Lond.).



**Devil's tail, the.** See quotation.

- 1765 If from the D—l's foot I mayn't be free,  
To bear the D—l's Tail's enough for me.  
(Note, a vulgar name for part of a Printing Press.)  
*Boston Evening Post*, Oct. 14.

**Deviltry.** Mischief. E. Anglia, 1825 : N.E.D.

- 1788 His shoes were made of the leather of hypocrisy, tanned with the bark of presumption, and curried in the shop of *deviltry*.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 28.  
1842 The execrable influence of State pride,—State *deviltry* in plain English.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, Jan. 13 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 71, App.  
1847 Did I remain awake, "I was crazy." Did I stand still, "I was plotting *deviltry*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xii. 198.  
1853 [He] has put more mischief an' *deviltry* into 'em, than all the ministers, an' preachin', an' Sunday schools, 'll ever get aout on em.—'Turnover : a Tale of New Hampshire,' p. 51 (Boston).  
1862 I like [the Indians,] and don't believe in their utter *deviltry*.—Theodore Winthrop, 'John Brant,' p. 48 (N.Y., 1876).  
1888 Whenever any *deviltry* was committed at night, the doer of the deed was, in his opinion, "some little bobtailed cadet."—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xvi. 37.

**Devil-wood.** The *Osmanthus americanus*,

- 1844 A species of maple called green-maple, or "*devil-wood*," remarkable for its toughness.—Lee and Frost, 'Ten Years in Oregon,' p. 81 (N.Y.).

**Dewmink.** See quotation.

- 1781 Larks, humilitys, whipperwills, *dewminks* [named among the birds of Connecticut]. . . . The *dewmink*, so named from its articulating those syllables, is black and white, and of the size of an English robin.—Samuel Peters, 'History of Connecticut,' pp. 255-6 (Lond.).

**Dicker.** A bargain. To **Dicker.** To chaffer.

- 1802 *Dickering* signifies all that *honest* conversation, preliminary to the sale of a horse, where the parties very laudably strive in a sort of gladiatorial combat of lying, cheating, and overreaching.—'The Port Folio,' ii. 268n. (Phila.).  
1823 You have sold your betterments. Was it cash or *dicker*? [Barter.]—J. F. Cooper, 'The Pioneer,' p. 61. (N.E.D.)  
1824 The subscriber has for sale the following property which he wishes to *dicker* for.—Advt., *Woodstock (Vt.) Observer*, June 15, p. 4/5.  
1830 If I can make a *dicker*, with him about the office, I'll let you know.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 118 (1860).  
1833 A *dicker's* a *dicker*, I allays consate, when people's upon honor.—John Neal, 'The Down Easters,' i. 81.  
1833 Mr. Van Buren found it was no use to try to *dicker* with me.—*Id.*, p. 229.



**Dicker**—*contd.*

- 1845 I had acquired quite a reputation in *dickering* with the thievish Italian landlords.—J. T. Headley, 'Letters from Italy,' p. 99. (N.E.D.)
- 1853 If he or His Majesty want to buy any piece goods, we are ready for a *dicker*.—*Putnam's Mag.*, i. 439 (April).
- 1854 This "truck and *dicker*" on the part of northern men with the black man's inalienable rights.—Mr. Wade of Ohio, House of Repr., May 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 666, App.
- 1856 There was Jim Smith, *dickering* in tax-titles and horses.—*Putnam's Mag.*, viii. 630 (Dec.).
- 1868 I instinctively mistrust a Yankee who has *dickered away* his interest in Bunker Hill.—Daniel R. Locke, 'Ekkoes from Kentucky,' p. 120 (Boston).
- 1888 After some *dickering*, a style of coffin was selected.—*Denver Republican*, April 7 (Farmer).
- 1890 She was traded from one chief to another, in the everlasting *dickering* that the Indians keep up.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 224.
- 1904 [He looks] for a result abundantly profitable in the large range for *dicker* which he has created.—Grover Cleveland, 'Presidential Problems,' p. 200.
- 1910 [Governor Hughes of New York] would not *dicker* or bargain. He would not help his bills through the Legislature by either log-rolling or patronage.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 6.

**Didoes, to cut up.** To play the mischief.

- 1835 Must all the world know all *the didos we cut up* in the lodge-room?—D. P. Thompson, 'Adventures of Timothy Peacock,' p. 170 (Middlebury).
- 1837 If you keep a *cutting didoes*, I must talk to you like a Dutch uncle.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 201.
- 1839 I tell ye that *cuttin' didos* was jist nothin' at all to what this critter was doin'.—*Havana (N. Y.) Republican*, Aug. 21.
- 1851 Had the Free States been manly enough to enact the Wilmot Proviso, we should have had just the same *didoes cut up* by the [Southern] chivalry.—*N. Y. Tribune*, April 10 (Farmer).
- 1853 He's the last person in the world that I should a' picked aout, that would a' ben *cuttin' up any didoes*.—'Turnover: a Tale of New Hampshire,' p. 53 (Boston).
- 1856 A great many ugly little *didoes* which are apt to ripen up in the bosoms of the blessedest families.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 508 (May).
- 1869 They'll be a consultin' together, an' *cuttin' up didos*.—Mrs Stowe, 'Oldtown Folks,' chap. viii.

**Difficult.** Hard to please.

- 1734 Children were early accustomed not to be nice or *difficult* in their eating.—Tr. 'Rollin's Ancient History' (1827), iii. 32. (N.E.D.)
- 1817 [The landlady] asked if we were not English, and said she had rather not wait upon us, "we should be *difficult*."—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 44 (Phila.).

**Difficult**, v. To embarrass. 1608, 1686, 1713: N.E.D.

1840 We do not learn as they were in the least *difficultied* to look upon him.—*Millennial Star*, June, p. 42.

1845 We are not *difficultied* at all on [that] score.—Bush, 'The Resurrection,' p. 51 (Bartlett).

**Dig**. A plodder. College slang.

1837 A clever soul is one, I say,  
Who wears a laughing face all day,  
Who never misses declamation,  
Nor cuts a stupid recitation,  
And yet is no elaborate *dig*,  
Nor for rank systems cares a fig.

*Harvardiana*, iii. 283: cited by B. H. Hall, 'College Words,' p. 158 (1856).

1849 Not as a punishment, but as a recreation for *digs*.—*'Letter to a Young Man,'* p. 14. (N.E.D.)

1863 A "*dig*" may be at times a genius, but a genius can never be a "*dig*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxviii. 199.

1869 I am going to study hard, but I am not going to be a *dig*.—W. T. Washburne, 'Fair Harvard,' p. 21 (N.Y.).

**Dig**. To plod.

1827-8 I find my eyes in doleful case  
By *digging* until midnight.

*'Harvard Register,'* p. 312. (N.E.D.)

**Digger**. A Digger Indian.

1837 Sometimes the *Diggers* aspire to nobler game.—Washington Irving, 'Captain Bonneville,' ii. 209. (N.E.D.)

1855 These *diggers* have, each one, a stick, a long slender stick, with a hook at the end of it....The object of the hook is to assist them in pursuing the lizard, a chief article of food with them. The lizard runs for his life, when he sees one of these diggers with his stick, and gets into a hole. The Indian puts in this hooked stick and brings it out, and quick he is broiled and eaten.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, House of Repr., Jan. 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 477.

**Diggings**. A mine. Leland, 1538. (N.E.D.)

1812 The different mines, or *diggings*, as they are commonly called, are scattered over this district.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Views of Louisiana,' p. 146 (1814).

**Diggings**. Lodgings, place of abode.

1838 It's about time we should go to our *diggings*.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' ii. 119 (Farmer).

1842 With whom did the idea originate? It's novel in these "*diggins*" at least.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, May 6.

1844 'Martin Chuzzlewit.' (N.E.D.)

1849 [He] strode a right smart chance of a critter, that couldn't be beat in "them *diggins*," if you'd believe him.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxiv. 113 (Aug.).

1853 The smartest weather that can be caught up in any body's *diggings* [is found here].—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Jan. 14.

1853 How dare you talk thus in these days, and above all in these *diggings*?—'Fun and Earnest,' p. 239 (N.Y.).

**Dime.** One-tenth of a dollar.

1786 Aug. 8. Order of the Continental Congress. (N.E.D.)

1789 If the unit dollar was made worth exactly 100 *dismes*, of the value of English half-pence, it would then be 50d. sterling.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, N.Y., July 4. [The writer evidently wrote *dismes* for *cents*.]

1799 Elias Boudinot, Director of the U.S. Mint, on Jan. 3 reports the coinage of "27,550 *Dismes*."—*The Aurora*, Phila., March 20.

1848 I got many a new penny and shining *half-dime*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxii. 231 (Sept.).

1851 "Music of the Dollars and the *Dimes*," a poem in imitation of The Bells.—*Id.*, xxxviii. 412 (Oct.).

**Dime Novel.** A romance of the lurid kind.

1879 The boy who reads *dime novels* wants to be a pirate.—Henry George, 'Progress and Poverty,' p. 443. (N.E.D.)

1888 The story of this crime is a strange one, and smacks somewhat of the *dime novel*.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 24 (Farmer).

1888 The hazers in college are the men who have been bred upon *dime-novels* and the prize-ring, in spirit at least, if not in fact.—George W. Curtis in *Harper's Monthly*, lxxvi. 636.

1890 There was enough desperate history in the little town [of Hays City, Kansas] in that one summer to make a whole library of *dime novels*.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 154 (N.Y.).

**Dinner Horn.** See quotation.

1849 The *dinner horn* will be heard across broad fields, and will be answered by the keen appetites attendant upon honest labor.—Mr. Sawyer of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 80, App.

**Dipper.** A ladle. 1801, George Mason, supplement to Johnson; 1828, Webster. N.E.D.

1904 The negro held up a full *dipper*, and the preacher drank copiously. — W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 90 (Harpers).

**Dipper, The.** Charles's Wain.

1842 You all know the *Dipper*? Yes, it is in the Great Bear. The *Little Dipper* is in Ursa Minor.—'Lowell Offering,' ii. 234, 236.

1858 [The comet's tail] is at least as long as the whole of the *Great Dipper*.—Thoreau, 'Autumn' (1894), p. 74. (N.E.D.)

1869 [They would] search the skies for constellations that never associate with the "*Big Dipper*" they were so tired of.—'The Innocents Abroad,' chap. i.

**Dipping.** See quotations.

1853 This horrible practice, called in lower Virginia and North Carolina *dipping*, is of respectable standing.—*Putnam's Mag.*, i. 142 (Feb.).

1857 She was suspected of a mysterious habit denominated in Southern parlance "*dipping*,"—in other words, of chewing snuff.—Thomas B. Gunn, 'New York Boarding Houses,' p. 221.

**Dirk, v.** To stab with a dirk or dagger.

- 1689 For a misobliging word  
She'll *durk* her neighbour o'er the board.  
W. Cleland, 'Poems.' (N.E.D.)
- 1808 Wrench off the bayonet and *dirk* the foe. — Barlow, 'Columbiad,' vii. 356. (N.E.D.)
- 1823 They would take the liberty to scratch me like a tiger, and gouge, and *dirk* me.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 194 (Lond.).
- 1823 [I was] well pleased to turn my back on all the spitting, gouging, *dirking*, duelling, swearing, and staring of Old Kentucky.—*Id.*, p. 103.
- 1825 He had changed his mind as to the *dirking*....[He] swore the fellow ought to be "*dirked*," the usual phrase for the punishment of slight offences among these humane republicans.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' pp. 39, 146 (Lond.).
- 1830 The assassin determined to *dirk* him in the street on his return.—*Mass. Spy*, June 2.
- 1837 He might have been disarmed and shot, or *dirked*, by the other party. — Mr. Wise in the House of Representatives, Feb. 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 225.
- 1847 One who had killed his man in a duel, or *dirked* his friend in a scuffle.—J. K. Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 181 (N.Y.).

**Discoloured.** Black. Very rarely used.

- 1824 The worshippers enter their pews, except the *discoloured* ones, who remain bowed down in the aisle.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 12 (Boston).

**Dis-elect.** See quotation.

- 1860 On Friday last, when Mr. Smith was elected Speaker, he was *diselected* by the withdrawal of certain votes.—Mr. Keitt of S. Carolina, House of Repr., Feb. 1: *Cong. Globe*, p 651.

**Disfellowship, v.** See FELLOWSHIP.

**Disgruntled.** Offended, discontented.

- 1682 Hodge was a little *disgruntled* at that Inscription.—H. Cave, 'History of Popery,' iv. 79. (N.E.D.)
- 1716 The word occurs in Read's *Weekly Journal*, Oct. 6.—*Notes and Queries*, 11. S. i. 178.
- 1802 The *disbantled* few are everlastingly trumping up some infamous falsehood....in treasonable night Caucusses, which it is certain are frequently held in New York.—'Letters to Alexander Hamilton,' p. 11 (N.Y.). This form of the word is very uncommon.
- 1811 *Disgruntled* is defined in the 'Lexicon Balatronicum' as "offended, disobliged."
- 1821 Dr. Dwight quotes *disgruntled* (for offended) as a Cockneyism.—'Travels,' iv. 280.

**Disgruntled**—*contd.*

- 1877 Congressman Carr misses no opportunity of getting in a whack at his *disgruntled* party friends.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Feb. 28 (Bartlett).
- 1884 He is very much *disgruntled* at Cleveland's nomination.—*Lisbon (Dak.) Star*, July 18. (N.E.D.)
- 1909 A heavy charge of dynamite, said to have been fired by *disgruntled* laborers, . . . exploded with a tremendous crash.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 1.

**Disremember.** Dial. in England, and common in the north of Ireland.

- 1854 People generally kiss [the Pope's] toe,—I *disremember* which one,—but I didn't.—*Knick. Mag.*, xliii. 648 (June).
- 1860 [Our readers] may not *disremember* that four years ago, &c.—*Id.*, lvi. 153 (Aug.).

**Disrupt.** To break asunder. Used in a literal sense by Scoresby, 1817. N.E.D.

- 1860 I do not mean to say that I believe our Government is going to be dissolved, and the Union *disrupted*, within a year.—Mr. Foster of Conn., U.S. Senate, Jan. 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 326.
- 1861 That great principle *disrupted* the Democratic party; it has now *disrupted* the Union.—Mr. Wigfall of Texas in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 31: O. J. Victor, 'History of the Southern Rebellion,' i. 323.

**Distance, to take.** To go far away. Rare.

- 1838 It is to be hoped that these Mormons will "*take distance*," and leave the haunts of civilized men.—*The Jeffersonian*, Dec. 8: from the *Baltimore Patriot*.

**Disunionist.** An advocate of disunion.

- 1850 In showing the danger to the Union, I think I have designated the *disunionists*.—Mr. Venable of N.C., House of Repr., Feb. 19: *Cong. Globe*, p. 164, Appendix.
- 1850 If I believed with Garrison that the Constitution was "a compact with hell," I should be with Garrison a *disunionist*,—an open and avowed one.—Mr. Duer of N.Y., the same, April 10: *id.*, p. 455, App.
- 1850 I was not aware of any indication having been made that there was a single *disunionist* on the face of the earth, and I do not know any. (Mr. Davis of Miss.) I know several, and more than several. . . . I intend to tear off the lion's skin from two or three *disunionists* of very prominent standing. (Mr. Foote of Miss.) U.S. Senate, July 18: *id.*, p. 1391, App.
- 1879 The Federalists characterized their opponents. . . . as disorganizers, *disunionists*, and traitors.—H. Adams, 'Albert Gallatin,' ii. 162 (Century Dict.).

- Dive.** A low resort, devoted to drinking, gambling, &c.
- 1882 The proprietor of a New York "*dive*."—*Society*, Nov. 11. (N.E.D.)
- 1883 Those who frequent the opium-smoking *dives*.—*Harper's Magazine*, p. 945. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 A plot to entrap young women for the *dives* of Northern Wisconsin has been discovered.—*Troy Daily Times*, Feb. 7 (Farmer).
- 1909 The opponents of the liquor traffic have fairly forced home upon the trade the acknowledgment of its responsibility for the "*dive*," the disreputable, illegal den where liquor furnishes the fit nucleus for vice of all sorts.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Sept. 2.

**Divide.** A watershed.

- 1807 Struck and passed the *divide* between [the two rivers.]—Pike, 'Sources of the Mississippi' (1810), ii. 136. (N.E.D.)
- 1817 We arrived at the head of the creek, and came to what is called a *dividing ridge*. (Note.) A term given to any elevation that separates the head waters of one creek from those of another.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 60.
- 1869 There are vast fields of gold over the Yellowstone *divide*.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 269.
- 1878 It took me all the next day to pass the "*divide*."—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 168.
- 1878 Roseburg is south of the "*divide*," and on the slope towards the Klamath.—*Id.*, p. 398.
- 1888 [I saw them] swing themselves into the saddle, and disappear over the *divide*.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 624.
- 1890 In the ascent of the *divide* the horse often caught up with the groaning, puffing, laboring buffalo.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 268.
- 1899 *Divide* after *divide* stretched before us, like the illimitable waves of a great white sea. — Mrs. Custer, 'Boots and Saddles,' p. 259.

\* \* \* See also Appendix XVII.

**Diving-hooks.** Appliances for picking pockets, &c.

- 1795 Thus have I seen a thief . . .  
Slink all so kindly 'mong the gathering crowd,  
And in their pockets use his *diving hooks*.  
*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., March 2.
- 1821 [The boy] fastened his little *thieving hooks* upon a pair of silver pint mugs.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 1.

**Divvy.** To divide up profits. A **Divvy.** A dividing up.

- 1890 The chiefs have large families, and the "*divvies*" are inadequate for their support.—*The Nation* (N.Y.), April 10. (N.E.D.)
- 1890 *Divvy* commish with you . . . I—ah—might *divvy* with you, though, to make a trade.—Van Dyke, 'Millionaires of a Day,' pp. 134, 136.
- 1909 Unless the [spoilsmen] had struck hands with the Democrats on the basis of an equal "*divvy*."—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 8.

**Dixie.** The Southern States. See Putnam's 'History of the Rebellion,' i. 113 (Farmer). Albert Pike's song of 'Dixie' is reprinted in 'War Poetry of the South,' 1867, the refrain being

Advance the flag of Dixie !  
Hurrah ! Hurrah !  
For *Dixie's land* we'll take our stand,  
To live and die for Dixie, &c.

See also Appendix XVIII.

1863 Perhaps now we will see the Colorado Brigade, and then hurrah for *Dixie* !—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Feb. 12.

1864 "Our last day in *Dixie*." Heading of an article in the *Atlantic Monthly*, Dec., p. 715.

1866 I'm a good Union reb, and my battle cry is *Dixie* and the Union.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 139.

1901 Boys, I tried this once before, and failed ; now I will succeed, or leave my bones in *Dixie*.—W. Pittenger, 'The Great Locomotive Chase,' p. 101 (Phila.).

**Do.** To suffice, to answer (trans.).

1846 I have just enough [pocket change] to *do me* to the end of the session.—Mr. Houston of Alabama, House of Repr., July 20 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1118.

**Do up brown.** To do up thoroughly, in a good or a bad sense, as it may happen.

a.1848 Nature seemed to take particular pains to have everything as it should be,—"*done up brown*," as they say in the Bowery.—Dow, Jun, 'Patent Sermons,' i. 188.

1851 From the way the negro acted and looked at me, I thought he was *doin' up the rascal very brown*.—'An Arkansas Doctor,' p. 162.

1854 All I have got to say is, you *did me up brown*,—a good deal browner than I expected.—*Weekly Oregonian*, June 17.

**Do tell.** See quotation 1842.

1823 "*Do tell !*" exclaimed Remarkable, "and doos the sea run as high as mountains ?"—J. F. Cooper, 'The Pioneers,' ii. 59 (Lond., 1827).

1842 Among the peculiar expressions in use in Maine we noticed that, when a person has communicated some intelligence in which the hearer feels an interest, he manifests it by saying : "I want to know" ; and when he has concluded his narrative, the hearer will reply : "O ! *do tell !*"—J. S. Buckingham, 'Eastern and Western States,' i. 177.

1853 *Do tell !* I want to know ! Did you ever ! Such a powerful right smart chance of learning as you have is enough to split your head open right smack.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, April 11.

1853 At last sez I, "Jidge, did you ever have your portrait tuck ?" "No," sez he, as ugly as you please. "*Dew tell*," says I.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 223 (Sept.).



**Do tell—contd.**

1857 "I want to know!" exclaimed the elder. "Why how you talk!" said the postmaster. "Now *du tell!*" cried the blacksmith.—*Id.*, l. 238 (Sept.).

1871 Mrs. Stowe, 'Oldtown Fireside Stories,' *passim*.

**Dock Fever.** The Yellow Fever, brought in from foreign ports.

1796 These and such places are visited by the *dock fever*,—yellow fever if you please.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Aug. 6.

1799 I presume you have heard of our being again afflicted [in New York] with the *Dock, or Yellow Fever*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 2.

**Docket, formerly Docquet.** A list of causes set down for trial.

1790 The plea entered on the *docquet*.—Dallas, 'Law Reports,' i. 382. (N.E.D.)

1800 Only one cause appeared on the *docquet*.—Addison, 'Law Reports,' p. 14. (N.E.D.)

1846 At the adjournment of the last term of the Supreme Court [of the U.S.] there remained on the *docket* undecided 109 cases.—Mr. Johnson of Louisiana in the Senate, Jan. 28: *Cong. Globe*, p. 261.

**Dock-log.** See quotation.

1822 [He] was instantly killed by the fall of a pile of *dock-logs*, which he was assisting to raft.—*Mass. Spy*, May 1.

**Doctor.** A sea-cook.

1821 The cook, at sea, is generally called *doctor*.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 1.

1830 The cook is in fact called the "*doctor*" in all [American] merchant ships.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 33

**Dodge the question, the vote, the issue.** To evade it.

1846 [It has been suggested] that I *dodged the vote*. Now I beg leave to say that I am not in the habit of "*dodging*" *any question*.—Mr. T. B. King of Georgia, House of Repr., July 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1118.

**Dodger.** A soft cake of wheat or maize, somewhat resembling a pancake.

1834 We sometimes had to live mostly on johnny-cake and *corn-dodgers*, and sometimes our living was scant.—Heber C. Kimball's Journal; in *The Prophet*, N.Y., March 15, 1845.

1845 I tarried to breakfast, which consisted of a good cup of coffee, and a fowl, with some corn bread, or "*dodger*."—P. P. Pratt, Account of his escape: *The Prophet*, Feb. 18.

1845 Our traveller forgot his surprise at the diminutive area of the Texan capital, over a good supper of "*corn-dodgers*" and chicken-fixins.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' i. 164.

1847 The Sucker State, the country of vast projected railroads, good *corndodger*, splendid banking houses, and poor currency.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' &c., p. 28 (Phila.).



**Dodger**—*contd.*

- 1850 Who was it, sir, that in 1828 could condemn the erection of hickory poles, yet in 1840 could build log cabins, drink hard cider, and nibble *corn dodgers*?—Mr. Olds of Ohio, House of Repr., July 24: *Cong. Globe*, p. 946, Appendix.
- 1852 Corn-cake, in all its varieties of hoe-cake, *dodgers*, muffins.—‘Uncle Tom’s Cabin,’ chap. iv. (N.E.D.)
- 1854 ‘The boarders and guests of the tavern had to rough it on *corn dodger*, as it was called.—J. G. Baldwin, ‘Flush Times,’ p. 142.
- 1855 When tea-time approached, the *dodger* was mixed and placed at the fire.—E. W. Farnham, ‘Life in Prairie Land,’ p. 138.
- 1856 He opened a pouch, which he wore on his side, and took from thence one or two *corn-dodgers*, and half a boiled rabbit.—Mrs. Stowe, ‘Dred,’ chap. xl.
- 1856 The only nourishment many could give the sick was a coarse *corn dodger*.—George A. Smith at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, April 6: ‘Journal of Discourses,’ iii. 290.
- 1856 We were awaiting the approaching meal of *corn dodgers* and bacon.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 145.
- 1860 You could not procure hands, if you should propose to feed them on “*corn dodgers*” (an elegant word which Webster has omitted) and fat bacon.—Letter to *Oregon Argus*, Nov. 10.
- 1864 *Corn-dodgers* made of confiscated corn, fried with confiscated pork, and anointed with confiscated molasses.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxix. 182.

**Dodger.** A hand-bill.

- 1884 *Dodgers* of warning distributed at the different polling-places.—*Fargo* (Dak.) *Broadaxe*, April 7. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 I would have a great quantity of little *dodgers* printed, to throw around everywhere.—*Texas Siftings*, Sept. 15 (Farmer).

**Dog on it, Doggone.** A piece of vulgar profanity, common in mining camps: possibly invented in Scotland.

- 1834 *Dog on’t*, you’ll bring bluid.—‘Noctes Ambrosianæ,’ *Blackwood*, xxxvi. 132.
- 1892 See a letter by Mr. J. B. Harrison of New Hampshire, in *The Nation*, N.Y., liv. 303.
- 1851 Mayne Reid, ‘The Scalp-hunters.’ (N.E.D.)

**Doggery.** A low drinking-place.

- 1835 A sort of Dutch *doggery*, or sailor’s hotel, situated near the wharf.—D. P. Thompson, ‘Timothy Peacock,’ p. 140.
- 1848 The drunkard, while reeling homeward from the *doggery*, is attracted by both sides of the street, which accounts for his diagonal movements.—Dow, Jun., ‘Patent Sermons,’ i. 99.
- 1850 A *doggery* is too contemptible for any man who has a soul more elevated than the swine to condescend to.—*Frontier Guardian*, March 20 (Orson Hyde, editor).

**Doggery**—*contd.*

- 1850 [I heaved] a delectable morsel [of mud], as I passed the "*doggery*," full in the mouth of a picayune demagogue, and hit him "vim" in the patent orifice.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 91 (Phila.).
- 1854 An altercation had arison at the grocery (fashionably called *doggery*).—J. G. Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 65.
- 1854 And then the *doggery-keepers* got to sellin' licker by the drink, instead of the half-pint, and a dime a drink at that.—*Id.*, p. 308.
- 1855 Some say that this fellow-feeling between him and the marshal results from the fact that he was a *doggery-keeper* in the States.—*Weekly Oregonian*, April 7.
- 1856 The present law does not prevent *doggeries*.—*Id.*, Feb 2.
- 1857 [He has to] support such a man, no matter whether he keeps a *doggery*, a groggery, or whether he is an honest man or a rogue.—John Taylor at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 9: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 119.
- 1858 I found copies stuck up on every blacksmith shop, *doggery*, and store-door in the Frog Mountain Range.—'Sut Lovengood's Lizards,' in the *Olympia* (W.T.) *Pioneer*, Feb. 26.
- 1864 It took only a few years to fill Jonesville with *doggerics* and loafers.—J. G. Holland, 'Letters to the Joneses,' p. 15.

**Dog-hook.** See FID-HOOK.

**Dog-soldier.** See quotations.

- 1846 The offer was quickly accepted, for the *dog-soldier* was poor. (Note.) This is the title of those selected to superintend the civil affairs of [an Indian] village.—Rufus B. Sage, 'Scenes in the Rocky Mountains,' p. 94 (Phila.).
- 1878 *Dog soldiers* are outcasts or runaways from all the [Indian] tribes, who get together in squads.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 562.

**Dog-town.** A community of prairie dogs. See PRAIRIE-DOG.

**Dogs.** See quotation.

- 1833 Two hundred dollars' worth of *dogs*! said I to myself—what does that mean? I found out that bonds or promissory notes were termed *dogs*, and they were said to be of a good or bad breed according to the ability and punctuality of the obligor.—'Sketches of David Crockett,' p. 121 (N.Y.). This use is obsolete.

**Doings.** Materials for a meal: commonly used as an affix.

- 1838 [It is said] that the first inquiry made of the guest by the [Illinois] village landlord is the following: "Well, stranger, what'll ye take: wheat-bread and chicken fixens, or corn-bread and common *doins*?" by the latter being signified bacon.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 72 (N.Y.).
- 1843 A snug breakfast of chicken fixins, eggs, *ham-doins*, and even slapjacks.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 58.

**Doings**—*contd.*

- 1847 *Flour doins* an' chicken fixins, an' four uncommon fattest big gobblers rosted I ever seed.—'Billy Warwick's Wedding,' p. 104 (Phila.).
- 1856 Pretty girl there in the black fixings, and white arrangements, with blue *doings*.—*Knicker Mag.*, xlvii. 406 (April). This use is very uncommon.
- 1859 Tell Sal to knock over a chicken or two, and get out some flour, and have some *flour-doins* and chicken-fixins for the stranger.—*Id.*, liii. 317 (March).
- 1859 Instead of "store-tea," they had only saxifax *tea-doins*, without milk.—*Id.*, liii. 318.

**Do-less.** Lazy, shiftless. A word introduced into the U.S. from Scotland.

- 1788 Hard is the fate o' ony *doless* tyke  
That's forced to marry ane he disna like.  
E. Picken, 'Poems,' p. 148 (Jamieson's Dict.).

**Doll-baby.** A doll. Either word was applied to the effigies sent over from Paris to exhibit the new fashions.

- 1795 She looked more like a *doll* from Boston than a live girl.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, March 10: from the *Connecticut Courant*.
- 1800 I say, how could you thus return  
*A Holland Doll?* Who did adorn  
Your head in this prodigious dress  
Of foreign gewgaws, &c.  
*The Intelligencer*, Lancaster, Pa.: from the *Carolina Gazette*.
- 1807 The dresses of the annual *doll-babies* from Paris.—Thomas Jefferson to Dr. Wistar, June 21.
- 1854 The little girls, who had been petted by their fathers and mothers like *doll-babies*.—J. G. Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 292.
- 1857 And so, said Porte-Crayon, you've deliberately gone back to playing with *doll-babies*!—D. H. Strother, 'Virginia Illustrated,' p. 102 (N.Y.).
- 1887 Let us light the candles, and play with your *doll-babies*.—Mrs. Smedes, 'Memorials of a Southern Planter,' p. 101 (Baltimore).

**Domestics.** Home made cotton cloths. Malynes, 1622, N.E.D.

- 1840 The compromise act is to be violated by its author, and his country girl is to give up her silks, and go back to her cast-off calicoes and *domestics*.—Mr. Sevier of Arkansas, U.S. Senate, Feb. 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 184, App.
- 1846 Worcester's Dict. (N.E.D.)

**Domine.** A parson or settled minister. The word came into the U.S. through the Dutch settlement of New York, and is still used jocosely. In the 17th century, says Watson, "the principal person in every Dutch village was the '*domine*' or minister." — 'Historical Tales of New York,' p. 26 (1832).

**Domine—contd.**

- 1680 We went to church in the morning, and heard *Domine* Schaats preach.—Tr., Voyage to New Netherland: 'Memoirs of Long Island Historical Society' (1867), i. 317.
- a.1769 Are you the *Domine* of the Parish?—Earl of Orrery. (N.E.D.)
- 1824 Washington Irving. (N.E.D.)
- 1831 Ariel attended the *Dominic's* sermons regularly, twice every Sabbath.—J. K. Paulding, 'The Dutchman's Fireside,' i. 94 (Lond.).

**Don Pedro.** Some kind of liquor. Rare and obs.

- 1798 A segar, and fifteen or sixteen glasses of *Don Pedro*.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 21.

**Donate.** To give. Very frequently used.

- 1846 Friends of the cause in Massachusetts and other places *donated* liberally.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Nov. 6 (Bartlett).
- 1855 It is proposed that the Government shall *donate*—I beg pardon, I do not like that word "*donate*,"—shall grant alternate sections of land.—Mr. Keitt of South Carolina, House of Repr., Jan. 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 481
- 1859 [I object to] the principle of giving away the public property,—"*donating*" it, as the title of the bill says (a term which I think is unknown to the English language; I suppose it means giving).—Mr. Mason of Virginia, U.S. Senate, Feb. 1: *id.*, p. 719.

**Done gone, &c.** A pleonasm common among the negroes and those who have to do with them.

- 1836 He had *done gone* three hours ago.—'A Quarter Race in Kentucky,' *N.Y. Spirit of the Times*: ed. 1846, p. 22.
- 1836 I'd *done got* the licker, and I was satisfied.—*Id.*, p. 94.
- 1853 Yes, Massa, dem no 'count calves *done fool* me agin.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 282.
- 1856 You've *done scared* them niggers, and I've een a'most made up my mind to whale ye.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 149.
- 1856 Missus, she's *done got on* her best cap, and gone down in the parlor.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' i. 139.
- 1885 "Massa Capen," said Moses, "de Unyum Gub-ment *done make* all de black folks contraban'; now, sar, what's dat?"—Admiral Porter, 'Incidents of the War,' p. 94.

**Donsy, dauncy.** Sc. "Affectedly neat and trim": Jamieson. Ramsay, 1717: N.E.D.

- 1805 Citizon Lafferty must have a "*doncy*" opinion of the cause, when he is afraid to bet even.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, Oct. 2.
- 1806 Tammy is quite a pleasant chiel,  
But then he wears a *doncy* heed [head].  
From 'A Sang, by Burns, Jun.,' *Lancaster Intelligencer*, Jan. 14.
- 1846 I shall give her enough to eat and wear, and I don't calculate she'll be very *daunsey* if she gets that.—E. W. Farnham, 'Life in Prairie Land' (1855), p. 39.

**Donsy, dauncy**—*contd.*

1853 [She brought some letters] to my room, to keep me from feeling "*donsy*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xvii. 223.

1874 You look powerful *dauncy*, said the old man.—Edward Eggleston, 'The Circuit Rider,' p. 52 (Lond., 1895).

**Dor-bug.** A species of flying beetle.

1849 The *dor-bugs* hummed through the tent.—Parkman, 'The Oregon Trail,' p. 42. (N.E.D.)

1872 Plain enough to those accustomed to handling *dor-bugs* and squash-bugs.—'Poet at the Breakfast-Table,' chap. ix.

**Dornick, Darnick.** An irregular bit of stone.

1840 See CAVORT.

1869 [He labelled] the other half, "*Darnick* from the Tomb of Abelard and Heloise."—Mark Twain, 'New Pilgrim's Progress,' chap. iv.

1878 As soon as he conceited what was up, he gathered a *dornick*, and was just drawin' back to send the strange dog where there's no fleas, when the stranger saw him, and went one better.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 185.

**Dorrite.** A partisan of "Dorr's Rebellion," in Rhode Island, 1840.

1844 Mr. Dorr, aided by worse *Dorr-men* out of Rhode Island, threw that State into turmoil and confusion.—Mr. Cranston of R.I., House of Repr., March 8: *Cong. Globe*, p. 359.

1844 The *Dorrites* have gained a great deal of sympathy abroad by representing themselves as the exclusive advocates of the democratic doctrine of extended suffrage....The *Dorrites* met together and resolved [that the people are sovereign, as if anybody had ever denied it.—Mr. Potter of R.I., the same, March 9: *id.*, p. 269, App.

1847 I hold that wherever the idea is a fixed one, that the more numerical majority have a right to govern—that this right is holden by a sort of divine right—there is then no constitutional liberty. It is *Dorrism*....It is bad enough when applied to a State; but when applied to the Union it is ruinous.—Mr. John C. Calhoun of S.C. in the Senate, Feb. 20: *id.*, p. 467.

1857 "O Lordy me, Sir! I'm so dreadful afeard you're both on you *Dorrites*!" "*Dorrites*?" "Yes, *Dorrites*! now an't you *Dorrites*, both on you?"—*Knicker. Mag.*, 1. 236 (Sept.).

**Double-barreled.** Having (as the law-books say) a double aspect.

1777 The event of this *double-barreled* scheme has been, that the colonel and his party are defeated.—*Maryland Journal*, Sept. 9.

1837 This was a *double-barrelled* compliment.—'Pickwick Papers,' chap. xxvii. (N.E.D.)

**Double house.** A house with two windows on either side of the front door.

1768 To be let, a good large convenient *double House*, situate in Medford.—*Boston Evening Post*, May 9.

1768 A good large convenient *Double House*, which has been improved and well-accustomed as a Tavern.—Advt., *Boston Gazette*, May 23.

1773 To be let, a large *double house*, and garden.—*Newport Mercury*, Jan. 11.

1773 A large *double house*, belongs to John Fillis, Esq., of Halifax.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 25.

1773 To be sold, A convenient *Double-House* and Two Barns.—*Mass. Gazette*, April 1.

**Double-jaded.** Equipped with a pillion.

1835 [They] jog on side by side, with their dames and sweet-hearts riding "*double-jaded*," as the Yankees term the mode, behind them.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 55. See also **JADED**.

**Double-teaming.** Making a joint attack.

1860 I saw a disposition.... "to *double teams*" on me.—Mr. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, U.S. Senate, Jan. 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 423. The Senator.... has no right to say there is any disposition to "*double teams*" on him.—Mr. Davis, *id.*, 423. In respect to the Senator's allusion to "*double-teaming*" upon him.... I do not, &c.—Mr. C. C. Clay, *id.*, p. 424.

**Double trouble.** A negro dance.

1807-8 No Long Island negro could shuffle you "*double-trouble*" more scientifically.—W. Irving, 'Salmagundi,' p. 79. (N.E.D.)

1809 He likewise ordered that the ladies, and indeed the gentlemen, should use no other step in dancing than shuffle and turn. and *double trouble*.—The same, 'History of New York' (1812), ii. 167.

1903 "A negro dancing step," still used in Southern Missouri.—'Dialect Notes,' ii. 312.

**Dough.** Money. College and political slang.

1851 He thinks he will pick his way out of the Society's embarrassments, provided he can get sufficient *dough*.—*Yale Tomahawk*, Feb.

**Doughboy.** Primarily a dough-cake baked for sailors; then a brass button of similar shape, worn by the infantry; lastly, a foot soldier.

1685 Ringrose, 'Bucaniers of America.' (N.E.D.)

1697 Dampier's 'Voyages.' (N.E.D.)

1867 "Wasn't I glad I was not a *doughboy*!"—Letter of General Custer, March 28. (Note.) A *doughboy* is a small round doughnut served to sailors on shipboard, generally with hash.

Early in the civil war, the term was applied to the large globular brass buttons of the infantry uniform, from which it passed by natural transition to the infantrymen themselves.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 516 (1888).





**Doughface—contd.**

1848

Fer any office, small or gret,  
 I couldn't ax with no face,  
 'uthout I'd ben, thru dry an' wet,  
 Th' unrizzest kind o' *doughface*.

*Id.*, No. 6.

1850 Mr. Root avows his object in moving the Wilmot proviso to be (in his own peculiar language), "to smoke out the *doughfaces* on each side of the line." In other words, to force a geographical division of parties.—Mr. McClernand of Illinois, House of Repr., Aug. 29: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1700.

1860 When will Northern *doughfaces* learn to keep up with progressive Democratic theology?—*Oregon Argus*, May 5.

1860 Fight on, ye mercenary hounds! Have at you, ye bullying Disunionists, and ye time serving *Doughfaces*!—*Id.*, Sept. 29.

1861 While now and then a weak-kneed *doughface* has exhibited slight symptoms of an ague, [most] of the Republicans have faced the music like men.—*Id.*, Feb. 9.

1861 Unbelieving men have derided us as *doughfaces*.—S. S. Cox, 'Eight Years in Congress,' p. 197 (1865).

1861 If there's any thing on airth that I utterly despise, it ar a Northern *doughface*.—*Knick. Mag.*, lviii. 512 (Dec.).

**Doughnut.** See first quotation.

1809 An enormous dish of balls of sweetened dough, fried in hog's fat, and called *dough nuts*, or *oly koeks*.—W. Irving, 'History of New York,' p. 90. (N.E.D.)

1809 Every love sick maiden fondly crammed the pockets of her hero with ginger-bread and *dough nuts*.—*Id.*, ii. 109 (1812).

1813 The cakes and the creams, the *doughnuts* and the sugar plums.—*The Stranger*, Albany, N.Y., Oct. 9, p. 135.

1826 On one corner of the table stood an article that would have staggered Heliogabulus, namely, a comical [*sic*] turret of *dough-nuts*—emphatically called *dough-nuts*. This detestable esculent sometimes resembles one of your inflexible little soup dumplins; at others it appears to be a kind of mongrel pancake.—*Boston Monthly Magazine*, July.

1835 [His] appetite was excited by the view of the "yankee notion yclept *doughnuts*," and the fragrant odor they emitted.—'Harvardiana,' i. 127.

1847 Other dainties awaited us as the result of killing hogs. They were "*dough-nuts*" and "wonders." [For fuller quotation see WONDERS.]—Dr. Drake, 'Pioneer Life in Kentucky,' p. 97.

1847 Out dropped the half of a chicken and two *doughnuts*.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 27 (Phila.).

1850 B. began to cry for M.'s *doughnut*. "The children shall never have another *doughnut* in the world," threatened their mother.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 247.

1857 Cider and *doughnuts* were served out to us in large quantities.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 230 (Sept.).



**Dove** for dived.

- 1806 He *dove* down in 6½ feet of water, and brought up the child apparently dead.—*Pennsylvania Intelligencer*, Lancaster, June 17.
- 1815 He *dove*, and arose under the stern of a vessel, and reached the shore in safety.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 11.
- 1825 Mr. Gardner *dove* again to the bottom [and] rescued his wife from impending death.—*Id.*, Jan. 19.
- 1829 [He] observed a bubble rise in the river, and *dove* in head foremost.—*Id.*, Nov. 18.
- 1847 I *dove* down where I could see the bar in the water.—T. B. Thorpe, 'The Big Bear of Arkansas,' p. 29.
- 1847 I have bathed in the Jordan, *dove* in the Nile, ascended Mount Ararat, sailed in the Ark.—J. K. Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 132 (Phila.).
- 1848 The gineral *dove* into the whirlpool, and down they went right slick. Next mornin' the gineral was found to hum with a sighter old gold pieces.—W. E. Burton, 'Waggeries,' p. 14 (Phila.).
- 1849 Did I strike at [the wounded duck] with a paddle?—he *dove*, and the weapon dashed harmlessly into the water.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xv. 118.
- 1855       Straight into the river Kwasind  
          Plunged as if he were an otter,  
          *Dove* as if he were a beaver,  
          Stood up to his waist in water, &c.—'Hiawatha,' vii.
- 1857 "Copy!" the printer's devil screamed, as he *dove* into the outer office.—S. H. Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 340.
- 1861 I *dove* off the high side of the old sunken schooner.—*Knicker. Mag.*, lviii. 140.
- 1867 The whole herd *dove* down with a tremendous splash.—Hayes, 'Open Polar Sea,' chap. xxxvi. (N.E.D.)
- 1881 A Mr. Karl, who had been swimming near by, *dove* in search of her body.—*Phila. Inquirer*, Sept. 2.
- 1881 Mr. Anderson *dove* off a bridge into the creek.—*Id.*, Sept. 5.
- 1909 He plunged into the cold waters of an Ohio lake, and for three long hours swam, *dove*, and performed all sorts of feats.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Nov. 11.

**Dove-tail**, to. See quotation.

- 1818 Many years ago, in what were frontier settlements, it was customary in stage-coaches for passengers to make room by putting their knees between those of their opposites; and this was called *dove-tailing*. A Lake captain once sat opposite a fat old lady, and, finding the accommodation scanty, said: "I guess, marm, its got to be done anyhow, sooner or later, so you and I must jist *dovetail*." She replied, "Must what, sir-r?" "*Dovetail*, marm; you and I have got to *dovetail*, and no two ways about it." "*Dovetail* me, you inhuman savage," she roared out, shaking her fist: "*dovetail* a lone woman in a Christian country! If there's law on airth, sir, and in the State of Illinoy, I'll have you hanged."—Fearon, 'Sketches of America,' p. 320.

**Down East.** In New England.

- 1825 A little boy from "*down east*," whom she was teaching to ride on a cane.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan, i. 28.
- 1825 A ginooine he-yankee, from "*away down east*."—*Id.*, iii. 145.
- 1829 "What brig is that?" shouted the captain. "Ten Sisters, from Dennis, Shube Nickerson, master." "Where the deuce is Dennis?" "Oh, *down east*."—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 25: from the *Pawtucket Chronicle*.
- 1830 [The vessel] was built during the war, *down east*, where every one knows that they build ships by the mile, and saw them off in lengths to accommodate purchasers.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 5 (Providence).
- 1830 The *down-east* monster that furnished abundant food for conjecture to all squatters between Portland pier and 'Quoddy inclusive, some two years ago.—*Id.*, p. 42.
- 1835 These boats resemble the "*Down East*" gundalow.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' i. 105.
- 1836 William is from "*down east*," and does not seem to be as "cute" as Yankees generally.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, April 28.
- 1836 The *down east* girls have a droll way of amusing themselves.—*Id.*, May 21. [See CHEWING GUM.]
- 1837 He was from the *Down-East* country, a representative of the Bay State.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 194 (Lond.).
- 1837 Famine *Down East*. The Eastport Sentinel says that a scarcity of provisions in that quarter is severely felt.—*Balt., Comml. Transcript*, June 26. p. 2/1.
- 1838 [Mr. Prentiss] evidently has all the acuteness of a *down east* lawyer.—*Corr.* the same, Jan. 17, p. 2/2.
- 1855 That land of wooden hams, wooden nutmegs, and wooden-headed pedagogues, known emphatically as *Down East*.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 347.
- 1858 Our "help," a buxom Irish girl, has a very devoted lover *down East*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, li. 541 (May).
- 1861 Brunswick, Maine, almost "the jumping-off place" of *Down East*.—*Id.*, lvii. 669 (June).

**Down-easter.** A New-Englander, a Yankee.

- 1833 In this year John Neal's book, 'The Down-Easters,' appeared.
- 1835 I want you to tell the "*down-easters*" all about that great western country.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 219 (Phila.).
- 1837 W. Irving. (N.E.D.)
- 1843 The lower back is stuffed with *down-easters*, and so are the attics.—'Lowell Offering,' iv. 15.
- 1853 "Well, what of it?" now yelled the *Downeaster*.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, March 14.

**Down look, Down-looking.** Sullen-looking.

- 1777 Ran away, an English Servant man;—has dark brown hair, is much pock marked, *down look*, and grey eyes.—*Maryland Journal*, July 29.
- 1788 Ran away, two Irish Servant Men; . . . . Lindsey, a *down-looking* fellow, had on a new flaxen shirt, &c.—*Id.*, May 9.
- 1800 A number of sneaking, *down-looking* fellows, who occasionally assembled in a group.—*The Aurora*, Phila., July 23.
- 1800 Ran away, a Negro Man named Chester. [He] is a low well-set fellow, and has a *down-look*, only when spoken to he raises his head with a smile.—*Id.*, Aug. 5.
- 1805 [He] chews tobacco, and has a *down look* when spoken to.—Runaway advt., *Balt. Ev Post*, Oct. 11, p. 3/4.
- 1823 A man with a *down-looking* visage.—'Quentin Durward,' chap. ii. (N.E.D.)

**Down South.** In or into the Southern States.

- 1852 "Takin' her *down south*?" said the man.—'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' chap. xii. (N.E.D.)

**Down-town.** In the business district.

- 1870 On these securities the *down-town* banks make loans.—James K. Medbery, 'Men and Mysteries of Wall Street,' p. 67 (Boston).
- 1888 There is a telephone connection with a *downtown* broker's office.—*Troy Daily Times*, Feb. 7 (Farmer).

**Dram-shop.** A small drinking-place.

- 1799 Does he or Brother Eyerley mean to keep a *dram-shop*?—*The Aurora*, Phila., March 27.
- 1819 Let me conjure you to avoid those pests of society, the little *dram-shops*.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 29.
- 1839 A detached part of these premises is a *dramshop*.—*Lincoln Gazette*, Feb. 12. (N.E.D.)

**Draught.** A tributary stream. Rare and obsolete.

- 1784 Through it runs Flat-Run, a *draught* of Tom's Creek.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Oct. 15.

**Draw.** A drawbridge, or its moveable part.

- 1786 A *draw* is placed over the deepest water, for permitting vessels to pass and repass.—*Maryland Journal*, Nov. 3.
- 1821 The *draw* [of Haverhill bridge] is 30 feet in length, and is raised by means of a lever.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 403.
- 1837 The bridge is now permanent, though there was once a *draw*.—J. F. Cooper, 'Recoll. of Europe,' ii. 243. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 Mr. Stanton explained that the object of his amendment was to raise the wages of the two persons employed in attendance at the southern *draw* of the bridge.—House of Repr., Aug. 21: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1621.
- 1856 The *draw* veers round, and a passage-way of only a few feet is left.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 633 (June).

**Draw.** A natural drain.

- 1884 You must find cover in some *coulée* or *draw*.—*Harper's Magazine*, p. 365. (N.E.D.)

**Draw.** A drawer. Obsolete.

- 1828 I hate to have my papers touched,  
Or meddled with—a straw—  
She calls it “slicking up the room,”  
And stuffs them in the *draw*.  
*Richmond Enquirer*, Aug. 22, p. 4/1: from the *Boston Statesman*.
- 1829 That celebrated receptacle of Chancery papers, the *draw* or bushel basket (I don't know which) of his venerable predecessor.—B. F. Butler to Jesse Hoyt, March 19: W. L. Mackenzie, ‘Lives of Butler and Hoyt,’ p. 50 (Boston, 1845).
- 1862 Once git a smell o’ musk into a *draw*,  
An’ it clings hold like precedents in law.  
‘Biglow Papers,’ 2nd S., No. 6.  
See also BUREAU, 1764, 1772.

**Draw a bead.** To take aim with a rifle.

- 1841 I made several attempts to get near enough to “*draw a bead*” upon one of them.—Catlin, ‘North American Indians’ (1844), i. 77. (N.E.D.)
- 1844 To “*draw a bead*” upon a Mayor or President is far from infrequent, and will become quite fashionable.—‘Scribblings and Sketches,’ p. 180 (Phila.).
- 1851 I *drew a bead* on an old wolf, and let him have it just behind the left fore leg.—‘An Arkansas Doctor,’ p. 113.
- 1854 A double-barrelled spy-glass levelled at him by a man at the head of the table, who stood up to *draw a bead* on him. J. G. Baldwin, ‘Flush Times,’ p. 188.
- 1856 An armed man with gun and pistol, and with *the bead drawn* upon every enemy present.—W. G. Simms, ‘Eutaw,’ p. 32 (N.Y.).
- 1856 It is now six weeks since I *drew the bead* on you. Your shot struck me on the collar-bone, and slivered it as if it had been paper.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlviii. 135 (Aug.).
- 1861 One big man in a fur coat, who was sitting near me, said, “Well, darn me if I wouldn’t *draw a bead* on Old Abe, Seward, &c.—W. H. Russell, ‘Diary,’ April 12.”
- 1861 A sentry on the end of a wooden jetty sung out, “Hallo, you there! Stand off, or I’ll fire”; and *drew a bead line*.—*Id.*, May 16.
- 1869 He did not fire, but told Steel to pass, which he did in safety, with a “*dead bead*” *drawn on him* until he was out of range.—A. K. McClure, ‘Rocky Mountains,’ p. 81.
- 1878 “If Bob Rock *draws a bead* on him, he’s gone,” was the general verdict.—J. H. Beadle, ‘Western Wilds,’ p. 415.

**Drawback.** Some kind of trick or performance.

- 1806 The whole will conclude with....ground tumbling, bottle-breaking, and *drawbacks*, accompanied with red eye and head ache.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 27.

**Drawbars.** See quotations.

- 1811 There were a pair of *draw bars* about twelve or fifteen yards from [his] door, so that Mrs. C. went up to the bars.—*Mass. Spy*, April 3.
- 1820 Having a pair of *draw-bars* to pull down, or a gate to open, he dismounted.—*Id.*, Sept. 20

**Drawboys.** Some kind of cotton goods.

- 1765 Shalloons, Tammies, *Drawboys*, &c.—*Mass. Gazette*, Nov. 7.
- 1771 Nathan Frazier advertises "Wiltons, everlastings, and *drawboys*, nankeens, &c."—*Mass. Spy*, June 20.
- 1785 "*Drawboys*" are included with checks and quilting in an advt., *Maryland Journal*, May 20.
- 1785 "*Drawboys*" are advertised along with quilting, handkerchiefs, &c.—*Maryland Gazette*, July 29.

**Drink.** Facetiously used for River. See also BIG DRINK.

- 1833 Shut pan, and sing dumb, or I'll throw you into the *drink*.—J. K. Paulding, 'The Banks of the Ohio,' i. 213 (Lond.).
- 1836 If I had my way, I would capsize your confounded imposition-shops [toll-houses] into the *drink*.—*Boston Pearl*, March 12.
- 1846 The boat struck a snag, and made a lurch, throwing me about six feet in the *drink*.—'A Catfish Story,' St. Louis *Reveille*, n.d.
- 1847 About evenin' I got my small dug-out, and....jest paddled over the *drink*.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 105.
- 1851 The fust thing I know'd I went kerswash in the *drink*.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 152.
- 1853 Dern my skin ef the *drink* aint up an' a coming like a quarter horse.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 161.
- 1857 You'd better scull your dug-out over the *drink* again, and go to splittin' oven-wood.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 137.

**Drive.** To chase wild animals into some place where they may be conveniently shot. Hence a DRIVE.

- 1823 [They] had been in the woods, *driving* for deer or other game.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 10: from the *Elizabeth City Star*.
- 1833 We had agreed to *drive*.—James Hall, 'Harpo's Head,' p. 37.
- 1833 We were soon on foot, moving merrily forward to a small hurricane which had been agreed upon for a *drive*.—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' p. 196.
- 1835 Our "*driver*," with the whole pack, had turned off into the "*drive*" some time before.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 137.

**Drive**—*contd.*

- 1838 The boys were directed how to *drive*. [They] commenced *driving* by whooping and riding around in the swamp, every now and then speaking to and encouraging the dogs.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 210.
- 1853 We must procure all the assistance that we can, and *drive* every thicket.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 298.
- 1856 Come up, my men, and get ready for a *drive*. (Note.) This is the hunter's term for driving deer into a lake with hounds, and shooting them in the water.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 356 (Oct.).
- 1870 David Whitmer....dropped out of the Mormon community, in one of the "*drives*" in Missouri.—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 26 (Phila., &c.).

**Drive.** A consignment of timber floated down to market.

- 1878 [He] bid in the following *drives* at the prices mentioned.—*Lumberman's Gazette*, April 6. (N.E.D.)

**Drop, The.** To get the drop on one is to be able at once to shoot him down; to have him in your power.

- 1869 So expert is he with his faithful pistol, that the most scientific of rogues have repeatedly attempted in vain to *get the drop* on him.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 233 (Phila.).
- 1883 [They] were always waiting to "*get the drop*" on somebody.—*Harper's Magazine*, p. 208. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 I kept my revolver handy, and did not propose that he should *get the drop* on me.—*Troy Daily Times*, Feb 8 (Farmer).

**Drop letters.** See first quotation.

- 1844 "*Drop letters*."....This is a class of letters which are usually sent by private conveyance, and are "*dropped*" or deposited in the post-office for delivery.—'Report of the Post-Master General of the U.S.,' p. 688. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 A St. Louis exchange wants *drop-letters* reduced to one cent.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, n.d. (Farmer).

**Drop-light.** A gas light connected with its source by a flexible tube.

- 1862 The family gathered with books and needles around the *drop-light*.—*Knick. Mag.*, lix. 134 (Feb.).
- 1890 Reading a calf-bound volume at a *drop-light*.—*Century Magazine*, p. 764. (N.E.D.)

**Drozzle.** A slovenly woman.

- 1816 His wife is a *drozzle*—his floors are an inch thick with dirt—his tables and chairs are covered with grease.—*Mass Spy*, Sept. 4.
- 1821 "*Drizzles* and slatterns" will not give a good exhilarating draught in the morning, if they had the best coffee in the world....So much care and attention is required, that I would except a slattern and a *drozzle* from, &c.—*Id.*, Sept. 26.

**Drule.** To dribble. Dial. in England.

- 1845 At another time [David] feigned himself insane, by figuring on the wall, and letting the spittle *drule* down on his beard.—P. P. Pratt's account of his escape, Feb. 18 *The Prophet*, N.Y.
- 1854 [A frog] with his chin upon a heart-leaf, which serves for a napkin to his *drooling* chaps.—Thoreau, 'Walden,' p. 124. (N.E.D.)
- 1857 There sat Jack [a dog]....with his tongue hanging out, and his mouth *drooling* with satisfaction.—*Putnam's Mag.*, ix. 288 (March).

**Drummer.** A bagman ; a commercial traveller.

- 1827 Some *drummer* of the trade.—Sir W. Scott. (N.E.D.)
- 1836 Our hotels are thronged, we may say infested, with a set of young men, clerks in mercantile houses, whose special business is to catch customers among the country merchants. In New York they are called *drummers*, their business being to drum up recruits to their corps of customers. In more quiet Philadelphia they are called *borers*, probably from some resemblance in qualities to a worm that infests fruit trees.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Aug. 23.
- 1839 Mr. Lunmox was a *drummer*, sent out to drum up customers for his employers.—Charles F. Briggs, 'Harry Franco,' i. 77.
- 1856 Felicien B. blessed the *drummers* and *borers* of New York. We assured him we were O.K., and sound as wheat on the *drummer* question.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlviii. 407 (Oct.).
- 1910 A Cincinnati *shoe drummer* was in the smoking compartment of a sleeping car.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 14.

**Dry.** See quotation, 1888.

- 1888 Each county decides whether it will be "*wet*" or "*dry*" (*i.e.*, permit or forbid the sale of intoxicants.)—Bryce, 'American Commonwealth,' ii. 350 n. (N.E.D.)
- 1909 Counting by "*dry*" counties and towns, nearly half the country is already openly against the saloon, and so are thousands of voters in the "*wet*" regions.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 18.

**Dry goods.** Linens, cottons, and draperies. The term occurs in Sewall's Diary, 1708. (N.E.D.)

- 1777 A cargo of rum, molasses, gin, and *dry goods*.—*Maryland Journal*, Aug. 5.
- 1784 Public Vendue....A Variety of *Wet and Dry Goods* consisting of rum and molasses,....Irish linen, ladies' genteel satin cloaks, &c.—*Virginia Journal*, Oct. 14.
- 1784 Harper and Fenner advertise, ex brig "Hope," molasses, *dry goods*, cutlery, &c.—*Id.*, Nov. 4.
- 1796 Advertisement of "*Dry Goods*, imported in the latest Fall Vessels."—*The Aurora*, Phila., Jan. 2.



**Dry goods**—*contd.*

- 1797 The highest price will be given, "in Cash, or *Dry and Wet Goods*."—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 15.
- 1798 A few months before, he had opened up a shop for *dry goods* in Boston.—*Id.*, Jan. 17.
- 1805 Wanted immediately, an active lad to attend in a *Dry Goods Store*.—*Salem Register*, Jan. 24.
- 1819 Dent and Rearick advertise *Dry Goods* and Groceries.—*Missouri Gazette*, St. Louis, Jan. 22.
- 1821 Her father kept, some fifteen years ago,  
A little *dry-good* shop in Chatham-street.  
F. Halleck, 'Fanny,' verse 5.
- 1833 "As you're from Feladelphy, may be you can tell us how *dry goods* in general are there." "*Dry Goods?*" "Yes,—needles an' pins an' calico an' cutlery an' so forth an' so forth."—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 63. [But needles, pins, and small cutlery are more properly "*notions*."] ]
- 1850 At the time to which I refer, "*dry goods store*" meant a store in which a little of everything in the world was sold.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, Aug. 26: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1666.
- 1861 Article entitled "A *Dry Goods* Jobber in 1861."—*Atlantic Monthly*, Feb., p. 200.

**Dry up.** To cease speaking or writing.

- 1856 It may be an improper expression; perhaps it is not elegant; but we wish to make use of the following remark: we could desire that Mr. Philip James Bailey would "*dry up*."—*Knickerbocker*, xlvii. 104 (Jan.).
- 1856 He suddenly "*dried up*," and never opened his lips until the train arrived at Albany.—*Id.*, xlviii. 102 (July).
- 1865 With which modest contribution we "*dry up*."—*The Index*, Feb. 2 (Farmer).
- 1865 Some of your folks have got to *dry up*, or turn our folks loose.—Bill Arp's 'Letter to Artemus Ward,' Sept. 1.
- 1869 One enthusiastic disciple of Democracy [in Montana] came staggering out of a groggery, and greeted me with "*Dry up*, old (hic) blossom-top."—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 292.

**Dude.** A dandy, an exquisite. DUDINE: A dandizette.

- 1883 The new coined word "*dude*" . . . has travelled over the country with a great deal of rapidity since but two months ago it grew into general use in New York.—*North Adams (Mass.) Transcript*, June 24. (N.E.D.)
- 1883 The elderly club *dude*.—*Harper's Mag.*, lxxvii. 632. (N.E.D.)
- 1883 Not to encourage the development of the *dude* or *dudine*.—*Philadelphia Times*, No. 2892. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 If the term "*dude*" had been invented [in 1866] it would often have been applied to a Texan horseman.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 212.
- 1891 Joe then went east, and married a young *dudine* out there.—A. Welcker, 'Woolly West,' p. 69. (N.E.D.)



**Dug-out.** A sort of canoe. See 1846.

- 1819 At Wheeling....we purchased a small canoe, called here a "*dug-out*," or "man-drowner."—Claiborne, 'Life,' i. 42. (N.E.D.)
- 1826 There are common skiffs, and other small craft, named from the manner of making them "*dug-outs*."—T. Flint, 'Recollections' p. 14.
- 1836 They flogged him almost to death, added the tar and feathers, and placed him aboard a *dug-out*, a sort of canoe, at twelve at night.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 103.
- 1837 [He] exchanged his "nag" for a canoe or "*dug-out*."—*Knick. Mag.*, x. 409 (Nov.).
- 1846 We laboured industriously the entire day in making "*dug-outs*." Two large cotton-wood trees were felled, about three and a half or four feet in diameter. From these, canoes were hollowed out, twenty-five feet in length.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I Saw in California,' p. 47 (Lond., 1849).
- 1847 About evenin' I got my small *dug-out*, and fixin' my rifle carefully in the fore eend, and stickin' my knife in the edge, where it would be handy. I jest paddled over the drink.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 105.
- 1850 The sailor had escaped all the perils of the tortuous bayou, to be pitched overboard when there was nothing to do but to step out and tie the *dug-out*.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 169.
- 1855 [The Indians] were occasionally met with in those canoes called "*dug-outs*," fish-spear in hand, poling up and down the river.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 563 (June).
- 1857 I larned one thing, never to try drownin' a bear by runnin' him under with a *dug-out*.—S. H. Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 213.
- 1857 You'd better scull your *dug-out* over the drink again, and go to splittin' oven-wood.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 137.
- 1866 Prouder to see him than a monkey-show, I paddled the *dug-out* over in double quick.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 125.

**Dug-out.** An artificial cave.

- 1860 When you have built splendid habitations, be as willing to leave them as you would to leave a *dug-out*.—Brigham Young, June 9: 'Journal of Disc.,' viii. 293.
- 1881 Instead of "*dug-outs*" on the prairies, he found the farmers living in large, handsome frame houses.—*Chicago Times*, April 16. (N.E.D.)
- 1885 We've got a gallon of whisky good enough for an emperor in our *dug-out*, an' we don't want any of your molasses and water.—Admiral D. D. Porter, 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 82.

**Dug-out—contd.**

- 1888 The roof of a flat *dug-out* is level with the earth ; and there is nothing to distinguish the upturned soil that has been used as a covering for the beams of the roof of a dwelling from any of the rest of the vicinity....These Plainsmen all had "*dug-outs*" as places of retreat in case of fire.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' pp. 605, 608.
- 1888 The sirocco winds drove the sands of the desolate desert into the *dug-outs* that served for the habitation of officers and men.—*Id.*, p. 687.

**Dug-way.** A road made by digging.

- 1870 Descending by a dangerous "*dugway*," we forded Green River.—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 219 (Phila., &c.).
- 1878 The coach labored up mountainous passes and along frightful "*dug-ways*" for miles.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 394.

**Dumb.** Stupid. O.E. Instances, 1531–1643. N.E.D.

- 1843 Oh ! I see, I see ; I'm very *dumb*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxi. 116 (Feb.).

**Dumb-Betty.** See 1814. The earlier meaning is not certain.

- 1766 The utility of Tubs, Cags, and *Dumb-Bettys*.—*Boston Evening Post*, Jan. 13.
- 1814 Jefferson's *Dumb Betty*, which without the attendance of a servant serves up his chocolate and hot muffins for breakfast.—*Mass. Spy*, May 14 : from the *Salem Gazette*.

**Dumb-fish or Dun-fish.** Codfish mellowed by the process of "dunning." See particularly 1792.

- 1762 "Choice *Dumb Fish* and Connecticut Pork" advertised in the *Boston Evening Post*, Jan. 11.
- 1762 Choice Providence Stone Lime, and the best *Dumb Fish*.—*Id.*, Oct. 4.
- 1767 "*Dumb Fish*" advertised by Samuel Allyne Otis.—*Boston-Gazette*, Sept. 21.
- 1769 "*Dumb Fish*" for sale at Auction.—*Mass. Gazette*, Nov. 23.
- 1770 Joseph Barrell, at Store No. 3, South Side, Town Dock, advertises *Dumb Fish*.—*Boston Evening Post*, May 21.
- 1772 A few Quintals best *Dumb'd Fish* for sale.—*Mass. Gazette*, Oct. 29.
- 1774 Henry Lloyd offers for sale "a few Quintals of choice *Dum Fish*."—*Boston Evening Post*, June 27.
- 1786 *Dumb Fish*, &c., advertised in *Maryland Journal*, June 9.
- 1792 [The cod] after being properly salted and dried, is kept alternately above and under ground, till it becomes so mellow as to be denominated *dumb fish*. This fish, when boiled, is red, and is eaten generally on Saturdays at the best tables in New-England.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 214. (N.E.D.)
- 1809 I must thank you for the *dumb-fish* which you have been so kind as to have forwarded.—Thomas Jefferson to Gen Dearborne, June 14 : from Monticello.

**Dumb-fish or Dun-fish**—*contd.*

- 1812 One hundred and fifty quintals *Dumb Fish* for sale.—Advt., *Boston-Gazette*, July 2.
- 1818 “*Dun-fish*. When cod-fish is *dunned*, it ought not to be boiled at all. It is a little surprising that many a good housewife is not apprised that the *dun* or dried cod-fish ought not to be boiled.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 23.
- 1873 The process of *dunning*, which made the Shoals fish so famous a century ago, is almost a lost art, though the chief fisherman at Star still “*duns*” a few yearly.—Celia Thaxter, ‘Isles of Shoals,’ p. 83.

**Dumbfounder**, n. A complete stop.

- 1837 As a last resort, and as a *dumbfounder* to all further remonstrances, they assert, &c.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ii. 175 (March).

**Dump**. To throw down promiscuously.

- 1851 Next morning we had....five pounds of live geese-feathers, six bushels of dried apples, and a little of ‘most all other agricultural products,....*dumped* on the floor together.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxvii. 65 (Jan.).

**Dunkard, Dunker**. A species of Anabaptist, originating in Germany: found mostly in Pennsylvania.

- 1756 The *Dunkers* (who are all Doctors) entertain the Indians who are wounded here.—George Washington, ‘Letters’ (1889), i. 354. (N.E.D.)
- 1774 A letter from a Member of the Society called *Dunkards*, written from Ephrata, June 30, to a lady of the Penn family was printed in the *Columbian Magazine*.
- 1777 [He] may require any person to give account on oath, or affirmation if a Quaker, Menonist, or *Dunker*.—*Maryland Journal*, Dec. 2.
- 1785 The Quakers and Moravians, *Dunkers*, Mennonites, or other worthy people in Pennsylvania.—J. Q. Adams, ‘Works’ (1854), ix. 533. (N.E.D.)
- 1786 Not a Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, *Dunker*, Menonist, Nicolite, nor even the peaceable old Quaker can now be prevailed with to contribute a single farthing towards the good design.—*Maryland Journal*, Feb. 21.
- 1786 (April 27.) An account of the Society of *Dunkards* in Pennsylvania was communicated by a British officer to the *Edinburgh Magazine*, and reprinted in the ‘American Museum,’ vi. 35–40 (1789).
- 1788 It appears probable that the greater part of the Quakers, Methodists, *Dunkers*, and Menonists, refused to take the test from scruples of conscience.—*Maryland Journal*, Sept. 12.
- 1791 The Menonists and *Dunkards* skipped like bearded rams.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Jan. 12.

**Durgen**. A worn-out horse. The word is used in New Jersey. (‘Dialect Notes,’ i. 330.) In Fielding’s ‘Tom Thumb,’ II. v. (1730), it is applied to the hero of the piece: “And can my princess such a *durgen* wed?”

**Duster.** A light wrapper or coat, usually of brown linen, to keep out the dust in travelling.

1864 G. A. Sala, *Daily Telegraph*, Oct. 13. (N.E.D.)

1870 Rose discovered your thin coat, which she called a "*duster*."  
—J. R. Lowell, 'Letters' (1894), ii. 77. (N.E.D.)

1876 [The people] don't have time to take their *dusters* off; they come in their *dusters*, they eat in their *dusters*, and to the best of my belief they sleep in their *dusters*.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Sept. 23 (Bartlett).

1883 A crowd of human beings, clad for the most part in brown holland coats, or "*dusters*."—D. Pidgeon, 'An Engineer's Holiday,' p. 108 (Lond.).

**Dutch treat.** One in which each person pays for himself. Phrase used in Iowa, 1903: 'Dialect Notes,' ii. 351

**Dutch uncle.** To talk to any one like a Dutch uncle is to reprehend him, to use the *patruce verbera linguæ*.

1837 If you keep a cutting didoes, I must *talk to you like a Dutch uncle*.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 201.

\*.\* See *Notes and Queries*, 3 S. iii. 471; 6 S. ii. 473.

**Dutchman.** A German. The N.E.D. furnishes examples 1387, 1413, &c. Long obs. in England.

1778 She is a lusty wench, speaks good English and *Dutch*: . . . a likely molatto wench.—*Maryland Journal*, Jan. 27.

1778 This affidavit-man is a *Dutchman*, with whom I was obliged to converse by an interpreter.—*Id.*, Nov. 24.

1794 A piece of sliced cabbage, by *Dutchmen* ycleped cold slaw.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 12.

1799 Two *Dutchmen* from Northampton, who were violently opposed to the Stamp Act, lately arrived.—*The Aurora*, Phila., April 6.

1807 I think they call him German, though he is not a *Dutchman*.—*The Balance*, March 10 (p. 75).

1829 It is said the *Dutchman* got cloyed with her name, so dissonant with his beloved sour-kroust and buttermilk.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 4.

1838 I would gather the light of these documents into a focus so bright and so hot that every *Dutchman* in Maryland and Pennsylvania might light his pipe by it.—Mr. Wise of Virginia, House of Repr., Dec. 28: *Cong. Globe*, p. 76.

1841 The dull, drowsy, beef-eyed *Dutchmen*, . . . the Hessian boobies.—W. G. Simms, 'The Kinsmen,' ii. 27 (Phila.).

1859 The Glasspteen [glass-put-in] man is almost invariably a German, or, as the profane have it, a *Dutchman*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, liii. 403 (April).

**Dyed-in-the-wool.** A Democrat thus dyed is a thorough "Bourbon," one who sticks to his principles without compromise. The phrase is used by North of the education of children: see the first quotation.

**Dyed-in-the-wool—contd.**

- 1579-80 If he had not through institution and education (as it were) *died in wool* the manners of children.—North, 'Plutarch' (1676), p. 65. (N.E.D.)
- 1830 In half an hour [he can] come out an original democrat, *dyed in the wool*.—Speech of Daniel Webster, *Mass. Spy*, Feb. 10.
- 1830 How long it takes to be "*dyed in the wool*," and to become "Jackson to the backbone," does not seem to be settled.—*Id.*, July 7.
- 1830 The corruption and bargaining by which some of those "eleventh hour" "*dyed in the wool*" patriots obtained the situations which they now hold.—*Id.*, Aug. 4.
- 1838 Several modern Democrats, who have been recently *dyed in the wool*.—Mr. Hudson in the N.Y. Assembly, Feb. 8: *The Jeffersonian*, March 3.
- 1840 As patent a *dyed-in-the-wool* Democrat as Theodore Fog himself.—John P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 52.
- 1840 The captain of the boat proved to be a sterling Democrat, *dyed in the wool*.—Mr. Watterson of Tenn., House of Repr., April 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 376, App.
- 1842 Mr. Arnold of Tenn. was astonished at the speech of Mr. Colquitt, who professed to be a Democrat *dyed in the wool*.—The same, April 27: *Id.*, p. 448.
- 1843 A Democrat of the Jeffersonian school, *dyed in the wool*, needed no clew to where he stood on the political chess-board. The people always knew where to find him.—Mr. Gordon of N.Y., the same, Jan. 5: *id.*, p. 124.
- 1846 Mr. Pickens has come out flat-footed for the Administration,—a real red-hot Democrat, *dyed in the wool*.—*N.Y. Herald*, June 30 (Bartlett).
- 1847 The Democrats are beginning to claim General Taylor as a Democrat *dyed in the wool*.—*N.Y. Commercial Advertiser*, May 24 (Bartlett).
- 1850 I do not know [that] I shall be more "un-Whigged" than themselves, because I believe that I also am *dyed in the wool*.—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, U.S. Senate, Aug. 14: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1557, App.
- 1904 For my part, I'm a *dyed-in-the-wool* Rebel, and don't think I fade in ordinary washing.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 209 (Harpers).

## E

**Eagle.** A ten dollar gold piece.

- 1789 The *Eagle* containing 10 dollars of 50d. is worth 2 guineas, and rather more.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, N.Y., July 14.
- 1789 You receive 3 *Eagles*, 9 dollars, 7 cents. Enter these figures in your book without any dot, when they will read 3907 cents.—*Id.*, July 4.
- 1803 A vast river of golden *eagles* ready coined, which at a trifling expense in cutting canals and constructing locks may easily be turned into the treasury of the U.S.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Nov. 30: ridiculing Thomas Jefferson's Account of Louisiana.
- 1810 One hundred *Eagles* was the price ;  
I paid the shiners in a trice.  
*The Repertory*, Oct. 16, from the *Hampshire Federalist*.
- 1838 [The quarantine-boat is kept] as neat as a new-coined *eagle*.—E. C. Wines, 'A Trip to Boston,' p. 75.
- 1841 It was an open declaration of war upon the *half eagles*, the gold currency. . . . This gold, in *half eagles*, was too good for us, and must therefore be driven out of the country.—Mr. Walker of Mississippi, U.S. Senate: *Cong. Globe*, p. 269.
- 1842 His passage was \$4., and he was given a gold *eagle* (\$10.) and \$5. silver in change, one dollar being retained for discount on the note.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Dec. 6.
- 1852 He was about to contribute a *half eagle* to the funds.—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 323 (Oct.).
- 1859 When you have stamped a gold bar worth so many dollars or so many *eagles*, that does not make it the money of the country. . . . It is money in no sense whatever.—Mr. Bayard of Delaware, U.S. Senate, Feb. 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1221.
- 1861 [It has caused us to] scramble for the picayunes when we might as well have picked up the *eagles*.—George A. Smith at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 6: 'Journal of Discourses,' ix. 19.
- 1888 Albert carried in a sack, tucked in his hip pocket, 890 dols., mostly in *double eagles*.—*Troy Daily Times*, Jan. 31.

**Eagle from Harper's Ferry, the.**

- 1849 This gentleman [Mr. Tompkins of Miss.] thought proper to donominate me the "*Eagle from Harper's Ferry*," and the gentleman may congratulate himself upon the success of his sarcasm.—Mr. Bedinger of Virginia, House of Repr., Feb. 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 114, App.

**Ear-hoop.** An ear-ring.

- 1808 A large assortment of *Earhoops*, of different sizes.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, May 18.

**Ear-lock.** A lock of hair over the ear.

- a.1775 A musket ball [struck] the pin out of the hair of his *ear-lock*.—*Harper's Mag.* (1883), p. 736. (N.E.D.)
- 1793 An essenced beau, with *ear locks* well larded and mealed.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 26.
- 1809 His hair strutting out on each side in stiffly pomatumed *ear-locks*.—W. Irving, 'Knickerbockers' (1861), p. 183. (N.E.D.)
- 1843 And his smoothly-combed *ear-locks* fell down to his waist.—'Lowell Offering,' iv. 12.
- 1855 His long *ear-locks* . . . were curled and frizzled into knots like rosettes above each red and shapeless ear.—*Putnam's Mag.*, vi. 239 (Sept.).
- 1867 His *ear-locks* gray, striped with a foxy brown,  
Were braided up to a hide a desert crown.  
James R. Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story.'

**Ear-tabs.** Appendages on either side of a fur cap.

- 1855 In stable-yards, old-looking black boys in catskin caps, with *ear-tabs* to them.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 199 (Feb.).
- 1909 With the first really cold weather of the winter, there appeared on Broadway the vendors of *ear-tabs*, always to be seen on that thoroughfare when the mercury is low.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 28.

**Eastern Shore, the.** That part of Maryland lying between the ocean and Delaware Bay.

- 1777 [He] now has a family living near Choptank, on *the Eastern shore*.—*Maryland Journal*, Aug. 5.
- 1777 Deserted, . . . John Thompson, born on *the Eastern shore*.—*Id.*, Aug. 12.
- 1777 Ran away, A Negro man named Jack, . . . was born on *the Eastern shore*, and will probably go that way.—*Id.*, Aug. 19.
- 1778 It was imagined, as soon as he and his companion disappeared, they were attempting to reach *the Eastern Shore*.—Runaway advt., *Dunlap's Maryland Gazette*, Aug. 25.
- 1784 From this Seat, close to Baltimore, in a clear day a large part of *the Eastern shore* is plainly to be seen.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, March 16.

**Easterners.** People belonging to the Eastern States, from Maine to Delaware.

- 1864 One hears such not seldom among us *Easterners*.—Lowell, 'Biglow Papers.' (N.E.D.)

**Eat.** To feed.

- 1842 [The *Bay State Democrat* says that Mr. Dickens] has declined the invitation of the Philadelphians to *eat* him.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, March 4.
- 1850 [We had] to provide our own fare, or, as one of the party facetiously expressed it, to "*eat ourselves*."—James L. Tyson, 'Diary in California,' p. 52 (N.Y.).

**Eat—contd.**

1854 You do promise to take this ere woman, to *eat* her, and to drink her, and keep her in things to wear, as long as you and she lives.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 144 (N.Y.).

a.1860 I was told you'd give us two dollars a day and *eat* us.—'Pickings from the Picayune,' p. 47 (Bartlett).

**Eat dog.** An Indian custom, from which a phrase sometimes used in politics is derived.

1775 Captain B. Romans mentions an Indian custom of having "a feast of dogs at the declaration of war."—'Florida,' p. 100.

1832 Captain Hudson (1609) notes that the Indians on the river now named after him "killed a fat dog, and skinned it with shells."—Watson, 'Historic Tales of New York,' p. 23.

1902 At councils of great importance, a dog feast was formerly held, and to refuse to participate would anger the Indians. But if, when the plate of dog was offered, one put a dollar on the plate, and passed it to one's neighbor, the latter took the dollar, and ate the dog. From this custom the slang phrase of politicians, *eat dog for another*, originated.—Bishop Whipple, 'Lights and Shadows,' p. 260.

**Ebenezer.** Temper, irritability.

1836 Says I, Deb, we are going to shear our old black ram next fust day week, and I'll send you wool enough to make a wig. That ris Deb's *ebenezer*.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, July 27.

1837 That riz my *ebenezer*, and I banged the first of 'em all to smash.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 183 (Lond.).

a.1848 The *ebenezer* of some men rises to an awful pitch, at the mere prick of a pin.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 252.

1848 Waell, I recking the capting's *ebenezer* was roused.—W. E. Burton, 'Waggeries,' p. 16 (Phila.).

**Eel.** A New Englander.

1837-40. The *eels* of New England and the cornercrackers of Virginia.—Haliburton, 'The Clockmaker' (1862), p. 318. (N.E.D.)

**Eel-grass.** Grass-wrack; *zostera marina*.

1806 A young man at Sullivan (Maine) saw a Fox go down to some *eel-grass*, and roll himself up in it.—*Balt. Ev. Post*, Feb. 19, p. 3/3: from a Buckstown paper.

1824 A beard thick as *eel-grass* is hanging beneath,  
While two rows of huge barnacles serve him for teeth.  
*The Microscope*, Albany, Feb. 21: from the *Providence Journal*.

1860 We see sharks in the *eel-grass*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxv. 220.

1864 The kelp and *eel-grass* left by higher floods.—Lowell, 'Fireside Travels,' p. 45. (N.E.D.)



**Eenamost.** Even almost ; nearly. See also Most.

- 1834 The crowd was so great, that I was *eny most* mashed to a slab.—‘Major Jack Downing’s Letters,’ p. 81.
- 1839 [The whale’s head] was *e’en a most off*.—‘Major Jack on Board a Whaler,’ *Havana (N.Y.) Republican*, Aug. 21.
- 1843 I’m *e’en a’most* sorry I told them what I did.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 17.
- 1845 He’s afeard of me, and I can do *e’enamost* any thing with him.—*Id.*, x. 348.
- 1850 He knows the catechism, and has got the whole Bible *e’eny most* by heart.—S. Judd, ‘Margaret,’ p. 113 (Bartlett).
- 1856 You’ve done scared them niggers, and I’ve *een a’most* made up my mind to whale ye.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 149.

**Eend. Yankee for End.**

- [illegible]

## Egg-bread.

- 1862 The table was spread with rich *egg-bread*, fried ham, and pure coffee.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xii. 26 (Richmond, Va., 1884).

**Egg-plant.** The *Solanum esculentum*: mentioned in botanical works, 1767, 1794: N.E.D.

1819 The crimson tomato, the dusky *egg-plant*, split and spiced, and the green fig, are common at table.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 130 (Boston, 1824).

1832 *Egg-plants* are here brought to market; some of them of purple colour, are as large as a child's carpet-ball; they are sliced and fried in butter, and I am told have the flavour of fried oysters.—Cincinnati correspondent, *The Mirror*, Lond., May 26.

**Egypt.** Southern Illinois. So called derisively with reference to the supposed intellectual darkness of the inhabitants. The fact that Cairo is one of its chief cities helped the jest along.

1855 In that part of that beautiful state known as "*Egypt*," many of these wise men have exercised their "squatter sovereignty" for the last forty years.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 422 April).

1860 The creed is pretty black in the north end of [Illinois]; about the center it is a pretty good mulatto, and it is almost white when you get down into *Egypt*.—Mr. Stephen A. Douglas, U.S. Senate, Feb. 29: *Cong. Globe*, p. 920.

1860 *Egypt* is almost wiped out, as a Democratic stronghold.—Letter to the *N. Y. Herald*, Aug. 13.

1860 Democracy can only flourish in such places as *Egypt*, where the majority are exceedingly illiterate.—*Oregon Argus*, Sept. 8.

1861 "Notes from Cis-Atlantic *Egypt*."—*Knick. Mag.*, lviii. 172 (Aug.).

1888 The southern part of [Illinois,] popularly known as *Egypt*, is full of sand hills and jack oak.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, Jan. 20 (Farmer).

[For remarks on Egypt as a place-name, see *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. x. 447; xi. 93.]

**Elbow-room, Mr.** A nickname for General Burgoyne.

1775 They had resolved upon making themselves masters of Dorchester heights, and securing the *elbow-room* which General Burgoyne proposed enjoying.—William Gordon, 'Hist. of the Am. Revolution,' ii. 40 (Lond., 1788).

1778 How much better will the American clergy be employed by Congress, than *Mr. Elbow Room* was by his master George the Third.—*Maryland Journal*, Jan. 20.

**Election bun.**

1859 [He] recollects he had a glazed '*lection bun*, and sat eating it and looking down on the Common.... Them '*lection buns* are no go, said the young man John.—'Professor at the Breakfast Table,' chap. ii.

1878 See FLIP.

**Electioneering..**

- 1774 [Caucusing] answers much to what we style parliamenteering or *electioneering*.—William Gordon, 'Hist. of the Am. Revolution,' i. 365 (Lond., 1788).
- 1789 All the world here is occupied in *electioneering*, in choosing or being chosen.—Tho. Jefferson, 'Writings' (1859), ii. 580. (N.E.D.)
- 1790 Officers are to manage their troops by *electioneering* art.—Burke, 'French Revolution,' p. 315. (N.E.D.)
- 1796 That base business of *electioneering*.—Morse, 'Am. Geography,' i. 472. (N.E.D.)
- 1796 A rendezvous kept by one Fay, a celebrated *electioneering* character.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Dec. 5.
- 1798 They boast that it will be a good *electioneering* stroke in the county.—*Mass. Mercury*, Oct. 19.
- 1802 Removal for *electioneering* activity, or open and industrious opposition to the principles of the present government.—Tho. Jefferson to Levi Lincoln, Oct. 25.
- 1805 Barna Bidwell, Esq., has furnished another pamphlet for *electioneering* purposes.—*The Repertory*, Boston, Feb. 19.
- 1805 A late *electioneering* address, published in New-York.—*The Balance*, May 14, p. 151.
- 1806 It is vulgarly called bittered sling, and is supposed to be an excellent *electioneering* potion.—*Id.*, May 13, p. 146.
- 1821 Doct. Fiske has adopted a mode of *electioneering*, rather novel in this part of our country.—*Mass. Spy*, March 21.
- 1823 "*Electioneering Campaign*." Heading of an item in the *Nantucket Inquirer*, Dec. 2.
- 1824 [These] are called *electioneering* tricks to help Gov. Eustis.—*Id.*, March 29.
- 1824 I had not gone into the Senate of the U.S. to *electioneer* for Mr. Calhoun for the presidency. I had gone there to do the duties of a senator.—William Smith in the *Columbia Telescope : Carolina Gazette*, March 27, p. 2/1.
- 1826 So long as the present system of *electioneering* continues, the Legislature must be made up of all kinds of materials.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 18.
- 1826 *Electioneering* is carried on [in the western country] with unblushing effrontery.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 214.

**Elegant.** A word resembling, in its multitudinous perversion, the word *nice* as used by many persons in England. About thirty years ago, an old lady in Boston said to the present writer, "Some of the Psalms of David are *real elegant*."

- 1765 The *elegant* Light-House building on Cape Cornelius.—*Mass. Gazette*, Dec. 6.
- 1766 John Hancock, Esq., gave a grand and *elegant* Entertainment to the genteel Part of the Town, and treated the Populace with a Pipe of Madeira Wine, [on the occasion of the Repeal of the Stamp Act].—*Boston Evening Post*, May 26.
- 1772 In the evening they exhibited some *elegant* fireworks from the balcony.—*Mass. Spy*, June 11.

**Elegant**—*contd.*

- 1774 For Sale, "A most *elegant* Eight Day Clock."—*Boston Evening Post*, Aug. 1.
- 1775 To be sold, as the Owner is going to leave the Province, an *elegant* little black Mare, rising six years.—*Mass. Gazette*, Feb. 13.
- 1776 An *elegant* coffin was prepared, and [general Montgomery] was decently interred.—W. Gordon, 'Hist. Am. Rev.,' ii. 187 (Lond., 1788).
- 1776 At Boston, Linc., saw a very *elegant* monument of one of my family, a wine merchant in 1696.—'Diary of Thomas Hutchinson,' Oct. 21.
- 1778 An *elegant* well finished three story brick house.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Jan. 6.
- 1790 I offered her a pair of *elegant* paste buckles.—*Mass. Spy*, April 7.
- 1798 At Tyngsborough, an *elegant* School House has been reduced to ashes.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 21.
- 1799 Several *Elegant* Rooms may be rented for the season.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 9.
- 1799 For Sale, an *Elegant* Black Horse, about six years old.—*Id.*, Dec. 10.
- 1799 The following Toasts were given, after partaking of an *elegant* dinner.—*Intelligencer* (Lancaster, Pa.), Nov. 27.
- 1800 [The Members of the Franklin Society] met at the Franklin Inn, and partook of an *elegant* Supper prepared for the occasion.—*Id.*, Dec. 24.
- 1804 The *Elegant* High-bred Imported Horse Florizel.—Advt., *Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, April 21.
- 1807 Yesterday the East India Marine Society....took an *elegant* dinner, presided by Capt. Webb.—*Essex* (Mass.) *Register*, Nov. 5.
- 1808 [The people of the small village of Murfreesborough, N.C.] erected by subscription an enormous liberty pole, 95 feet high, and adorned it with an *elegant* cap, in praise of the Embargo Act.—*Mass. Spy*, July 6.
- 1809 In the *Essex* (Mass.) *Register*, May 17, Morrill Marston advertises "*Elegant* Parasols"; and, June 7, Elizabeth Pierce "*Elegant* White Lace Veils."
- 1816 The softest, whitest, most costly,—and, in a word, most *elegant* flannel.—*Mass. Spy*, April 24.
- 1817 An *elegant* improvement is a cabin of rude logs, and a few acres with the trees cut down to the height of three feet, and surrounded with a worm fence or zigzag railing. You hear of an *elegant* mill, an *elegant* orchard, an *elegant* tanyard, &c.....The word implies eligibility or usefulness in America, but has nothing to do with taste.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 152 (Phila.).
- 1818 "*Elegant* Real Estate" for sale.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, May 29.
- 1818 What you say is mighty *elegant*, and you're an *elegant* man; but I guess you are not of these parts.—H. B. Fearon, 'Sketches of America,' p. 59 (Lond.).

**Elegant**—*contd.*

- 1818 If you be not a hard character, I will let you have *elegant* lodgings.—*Id.*, p. 66.
- 1819 On Saturday was launched from the shipyard of this place the *elegant* Steam Boat Mississippi, burthen 400 tons.—*Blakeley* (Ala.) *Sun*, Feb. 9.
- 1820 The good folks [in Kentucky] have *elegant* hogs, and *elegant* bacon, *elegant* corn, and *elegant* whiskey, *elegant* land, and *elegant* tobacco ;—we have a man on board who is said to be an *elegant* oarsman, and another who is “an *elegant* hand with an axe.”—Hall’s ‘Letters from the West,’ p. 187 (Lond.).
- 1821 The fact, that New England abounds in *elegant* pieces of water, has not even made its appearance in the books either of geographers or travellers.—T. Dwight, ‘Travels,’ iv. 144.
- 1821 C. Mowry, the proprietor of the *Intelligencer* (Harrisburg, Pa.) announces on March 16 that he has “an *elegant* figure for the purpose of printing Horse Hand Bills.”
- 1824 An *elegant* cement may be made from rice flour.—*Franklin Herald* (Greenfield, Mass.), March 9.
- 1830 [He] constantly kept an *elegant* table.—N. Dana, ‘A Mariner’s Sketches,’ p. 26 (Providence).
- 1835 Above thirty sleighs from Wardsboro’ made an *elegant* turn on the common, and drove up to Higgins’s Hotel.—*Vermont Free Press*, Jan. 10.
- 1835 *Elegant* place for a lame man, for every one is like him.—‘Col. Crockett’s Tour,’ p. 40 (Phila.).
- 1856 —The *elegant* little pound-cakes of Mrs. Widdifield.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlviii. 505 (Nov.).

**Elephant, to see the.** To see all that is to be seen ; to get an experience of life at its roughest.

- 1840 That’s sufficient, as Tom Haynes said when he *saw the elephant*.—A. B. Longstreet, ‘Georgia Scenes,’ p. 10.
- 1846 I felt my bristles a raisin my jacket-back up like a tent-cloth, so I axed him if he’d ever *seen the elephant*.—‘Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.,’ p. 87 (Phila.).
- 1850 If you think we have not shown you enough of *the elephant*, but got on the wrong way, and slid off backwards, please to mount him and take a view for yourself.—Theodore T. Johnson, ‘Sights in the Gold Region,’ p. 324 (N.Y.).
- 1851 I think I have *seen the “elephant,”* as far as public life is concerned.—Mr. Hale of N. Hampshire, U.S. Senate, Jan. 22 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 304.
- 1851 In the *Knickerbocker Magazine*, xxxvii. 172, a description of crossing the Isthmus of Panama is called “*A Glimpse of the Elephant.*”
- 1852 I’m ruther of the opinion that I’ve *seen the elephant*. Here I be, come a’most all the way from Washington afoot.—‘Solomon Slug, &c.,’ p. 147 (N.Y.).

**Elephant, to see the—contd.**

- 1852 I hev *seen the elephant* ; more 'n that, I fed with him out of the same trough on b'iled beans, mush, and molasses.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxix. 534 (June).
- 1852 You can participate, and taste, and *see the "Elephant,"* and not be hurt, at least not much.—*Id.*, xl. 549 (Dec.).
- 1853 Botts, the bully of Butchertown, has been in the western waters, and *seen the elephant*.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, June 24.
- 1854 I am a miner, who wandered from away down-east, and came to sojourn in a strange land, and "*see the elephant*."—*Knick. Mag.*, xliii. 428 (April).
- 1854 I had also forgotten that I had *seen, not the elephant*, as you perhaps thought I was going to say, but the President; yes, I have seen a live President, Franklin Pierce.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, June 10.
- 1854 Freshmen were now realizing their position ; . . . they had *seen the Elephant*, and rode the Goat.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xx. 107.
- 1855 Trot along, b'hoys, keep up with the show, and you will *get a good look at the elephant* by and bye.—*Weekly Oregonian*, July 7.
- 1855 Those who have never *seen the elephant* can get a life-likeness by reading this work.—*Id.*, Sept. 15 [i.e., Delano's 'Chips of the Old Block,' describing life in San Francisco about 1850].
- 1857 [He had received flattering accounts of the California gold mines] from the few of his acquaintances who had *seen the elephant*, and had returned with a pocket full of rocks.—*San Francisco Call*, Jan. 7
- 1858 Can he who slays the elephant for his ivory be said to have "*seen the elephant*" ?—H. D. Thoreau, 'Chesuncook' (*Atl. Monthly*).
- 1878 There was my friend Will Wylie, who had *seen the elephant* in its entirety, from trunk to tail.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 45.
- 1880 I had been in the mines myself, had "*seen the elephant*," and could give them any information they desired.—Peter H. Burnett, 'Recollections,' p. 305 (N.Y.).

**Elevator (for grain). See quotations.**

- 1795 The *elevators* [in the flour mills] are inclosed in square wooden tubes, to prevent them from catching in anything, and also to prevent dust.—Isaac Weld, 'Travels through N. America,' p. 21 (Lond., 1799).
- 1795 It will admit a vessel to lay alongside, and unload [into the mill with Evans's *elevator* in about three hours ; . . . passing it afterwards by an *elevator* into the hanging garner ; also conveyers, *elevators*, and hopper boy.—Advt., *Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Nov. 17.

**Elevator**—*contd.*

- 1813 Elevators with revolving buckets are discussed at length by Thomas Jefferson, in writing to Isaac McPherson, Aug. 13. He refers to the Persian and Egyptian wheels, and denies to Oliver Evans's invention the character of novelty.
- 1825 These *elevators* consist of a chain of buckets or concave vessels, &c.—Nicholson, 'Operat. Mech.,' p. 100. (N.E.D.)
- 1862 An *elevator* is as ugly a monster as has been yet produced.—Trollope, 'N. America,' i. 248. (N.E.D.)

**Elevator.** A lift for passengers. The first passenger elevator ever built was that in the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York. See *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. ix. 67.

- 1883 He did not trust the *elevator*, but almost flew down the stairs.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 275. (N.E.D.)


**Elevenpence.** The equivalent of a York shilling.

- 1802 [There was] a slight fracas between Ned Whiffle and Dick Slang, occasioned by the former refusing to lend the latter *eleven pence*, to get a glass of gin twist.—'The Port Folio,' ii. 220 (Phila.).
- 1826 There were many poor people that would have made the shirts for three *elevenpenny bits* apiece.—*New-Harmony Gazette*, May 3, p. 256/2.
- 1828 See NINEPENCE.
- 1835 [We] were bid farewell with the gentle charge of three *elevenpenny bits* each for supper and lodging.—'Letters on the Virginia Springs,' p. 76 (Phila.).
- 1842 The bones of the biggest statesman in the American Union, ground into dust, would not be worth an *elevenpenny bit*.—Mr. Hastings of Ohio, House of Repr., July 9 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 699, App.

**Ell or L.** "An extension of a building at right angles to the main block." N.E.D.

- 1883 An L of the house where she was born is still standing.—*Harper's Mag.*, Feb., 358/2. (N.E.D.)
- 1891 A large house with a front veranda and an *ell* came in view.—W. N. Harben, 'Almost Persuaded,' p. 21 (N.Y.).

**Ellum** for elm. A mode of pronunciation common in New England. Similarly "hellum" for helm.

- 1818 We admit the claims he urges in favour of Capt. C.'s being placed at the *helum* of state.—*Mass. Spy*, March 4 (word italicized in the original).
- 1858 The hubs of logs from the "Settler's *ellum*,"—  
Last of its timber,—they couldn't sell em.  
O. W. Holmes, 'The Wonderful One-Hoss-Shay.'
- 1862 In *ellum*-shrouds the flashin' hangbird clings.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd S., No. 6. 



**Embargoroon.** A nickname for the supporters of the Embargo Act, which prevented ships from leaving American ports. This Act was passed Dec. 22, 1807, and repealed March 1, 1809. Its opponents read the word Embargo backwards. See 1808, 1809, 1841.

1808 Pray what do you think of the *Hum-bug-O*, as it is termed everywhere but [in Washington] ?—*The Balance*, Feb. 2, p. 20.

1808 But as soon as *O Grab me !* shall let go his end,  
I'll haste to relate the sweet tidings to you.

*Id.*, June 7, p. 92 : from *The Courier*.

1808 The wretched dilemmas to which our *Embargoroons* are reduced in their attempts to prop the falling fabrick of their darling democracy.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 28 : from the "*Newbedford*" *Mercury*.

1808 One of the *Embargoroons* came into a Yankee watch-maker's shop.—*Id.*, Nov. 23 : from *The Centinel*.

1808 The resolutions of Macon, Eppes, Jackson, and others of the Jacobin host of "*Embargoroons*."—*Id.*, Nov. 30.

1809 The Embargo laws were called *O grab me* laws.—*The Repertory*, Boston, Jan. 17.

1809 The word of command, with the *Embargoroons*, is "again as you were."—*Id.*, Feb. 17.

1841 The unoffending word itself became an object of vengeance, was put to the torture, and, being spelt backwards, was pronounced *ograbme* : a sort of revenge quite as rational as that of a celebrated despiser of manufactures, who declared that he never saw a sheep without feeling inclined to go out of his way to kick it.—Mr. Brackenridge of Pennsylvania, House of Repr., Feb. 3 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 281, App.

### **Embarras.**

1814 *Embarras*, or rafts, formed by the collection of trees closely matted, and extending from twenty to thirty yards....Passed an *embarras*, the most difficult since we started....[Ascended the river] with difficulty, on account of the numerous *embarras*.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Journal,' pp. 205, 208.

1867 Defined as an American term for places where the navigation of rivers is rendered difficult by the accumulation of driftwood.—Smyth, 'Sailor's Word-Book,' s.v. (N.E.D.)

### **Emoulted.** Moulted like a bird.

1838 Now that they are poor, wasted, *emoulted*, and helpless, they are Whig Banks.—Mr. Hall in the N.Y. Assembly : *The Jeffersonian* (Albany), March 10, p. 30.

### **Empire State, The.** New York.

1837 The great state of New York, or the "*Empire State*," as it is called.—*Knicker. Mag.*, ix. 21 (Jan.).

1841 The outpourings of public sentiment in the "*Empire State*."—Mr. Tallmadge of New York, U.S. Senate, June 9 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 30, App.





**Enthuse—contd.**

- 1869 The only democrat whose nomination could *enthuse* the democracy of Ohio.—An Ohio paper, quoted in *Notes and Queries*, 4 S. iv. 512.
- 1884 Even the stenographers here sat with suspended pencils, and finally, utterly *enthused*, threw them up.—J. D. Shields, 'Life of S. S. Prentiss,' p. 181.

**Episcopal.** This word, which properly means of or relating to a bishop, has been grossly abused, first in Scotland, then in America. The abuse has become irremediable.

- 1752 The established clergy were *episcopal*.—Hume, 'Essays &c.,' (1777), i. 69. (N.E.D.)
- 1774 Wednesday will be held in Boston the annual Convention of the *Episcopal clergy*.—*Mass. Gazette*, Sept. 12.
- 1774 The *episcopal clergy* of the town of Boston have addressed Governor Gage.—*Newport Mercury*, May 30.
- 1781 Here [at Stratford] was erected the first *episcopal church*.—Samuel Peters, 'History of Connecticut,' p. 214 (Lond.).
- 1787 When George Whitfield first came to Charlestown, the Rev. Alexander Garden was *Episcopal Minister* at that place.—*Virginia Gazette*, Dec. 6
- 1788 The Right Reverend Samuel Provost (*Episcopal Bishop* of the State of New York), and the Rev. Dr. John Rogers, were re-elected Chaplains to Congress.—*Maryland Journal*, March 14.
- 1799 Every *episcopal minister* placed at the head of a church, from Maine to Georgia.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Feb. 19.
- 1799 It was currently said that an *Episcopal Bishop* would not be received in any of the American Colonies.—*Id.*, March 2 : from the *Albany Register*.
- 1810 A new stone building, intended for an *Episcopal church*.—*Mass. Spy*, June 20.
- 1828 The *Episcopal service* was that in which she had been reared.—T. Flint, 'Arthur Clenning,' i. 154 (Phila.).
- 1837 An *episcopal church* has lately been erected [in Pensacola].—John L. Williams, 'Territory of Florida,' p. 123 (N.Y.).
- 1843 A church belonging to the *Episcopal denomination*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 216.

**Episcopise.** To reduce under bishops.

- 1767 Their main view was to *episcopise* the colonies.—Charles Chauncey, 'Letters' (1768), p. 37. (N.E.D.)
- 1772 The failure of the *episcopising* project might be owing, &c.—W. Gordon, 'Hist. of the Am. Rev.,' i. 118 (Lond., 1788).
- 1777 I think it would not be amiss to export a bishop or two, to *episcopise* such of the colonies as may be conquered.—*Maryland Journal*, Dec. 23.

**Era of good feeling.** A term applied to the period of President Monroe's administration, and then used generally.

- 1817 The phrase "*Era of Good Feelings*" formed the title of an editorial note in the *Columbian Centinel*, July 12.
- 1841 Before the election we were told that, in the event the Whig party succeeded, we should have an *era of good feeling*.—Mr. Weller of Ohio, House of Repr., Feb. 3: *Cong. Globe*, p. 146, App.
- 1851 During the "*era of good feelings*," and the undisturbed repose of Mr. Monroe's administration, [these ideas] had been widely disseminated.—Hugh A. Garland, 'Life of John Randolph,' ii. 278.
- 1852 It is after an "*era of good feeling*" that your younger Adams becomes President.—Mr. Appleton of Maine, House of Repr., March 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 317, App.
- 1909 Monroe's Administration, "*the era of good feeling*," was not a period of complete peace in the politics of New York City. The tax-payers began to stir.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Nov. 1.

**Ermatinger money.** Hudson's Bay Company's currency, circulating on the Pacific Coast about 1842–1860. Mr. Francis Ermatinger held a commission as Chief Trader in the Company's service, 1842–1858. See Gustavus Hines's 'Oregon,' p. 189 (1851). He was probably a grandson of Lawrence Ermatinger, who lived in Montreal in 1772. (*Newport Mercury*, Jan. 11, 1773.)

- 1846 The *Oregon Spectator*, Sept. 17, prints an advt. of the loss of a due bill, "calling for 82 dolls. and 50 c. in *Ermantiger* [sic] money."

**Eruptiveness.** A tendency toward eruption.

- 1830 They kept up a continual smoke, which indicated *eruptiveness*.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 134.
- 1885 They create....a volcano, and are astonished at its *eruptiveness*.—G. Meredith, 'Diana of the Crossways,' i. 19. (N.E.D.)

**Escopette.** A carbine. Sp. Escopeta.

- 1805 [They were armed with] Lances, *escopates*, and pistols.—Pike, 'Sources of the Mississippi,' ii. 201. (N.E.D.)
- 1847 [Mexico] mustered a ragged regiment of miserable monteneros and rancheros....And there they blew their bugles, and fired off their harmless *escopettes*.—Mr. Pendleton of Virginia, House of Repr., Feb. 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 412, App.
- 1850 A ranchero, carrying an *escopette* and three turkeys.—Bayard Taylor, 'Eldorado,' p. 336. (N.E.D.)
- 1857 The memorialist was struck by an *escopette*, or two-ounce ball, on his sword-hilt.—Mr. Hale of N.H., U.S. Senate, Jan. 7: *Cong. Globe*, p. 248, App.

**Essence-peddler.** A skunk.

1860 It is a vulgar mistake that the porcupine has the faculty of darting his quills to a distance, as the *essence-peddler* has of scattering his aromatic wares.—*Knickerbocker Mag.* lv. 361 (April)

1862 — an' yit with means about 'em  
(Like *essence-peddlers*) thet'll make folks long to be without 'em. 'Biglow Papers,' 2nd S., No. 3.

1890 The doctor soon came back to say that the passage was disputed by a small but well-armed foe, and added that "as soon as that *essence-peddler* saw fit to move on, the major-general commanding would issue his order to march."—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 200.

**Essex Junto, The.** A nickname applied to some of the Massachusetts Federalists by President John Adams (1797–1801). His exact phrase was "the Essex Junta."

1801 If such an association existed, and was denominated by its enemies *the Essex Junto*, it has not retained that name because its members were thought to be confined to [that] county; but the name was extended.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 16.

1808 "*Essex Junto Meetings.*" This is the title given in the *Monitor* [Mr. Madison's paper] to the meetings in Newengland for petitioning the President.—Thomas Jefferson, with reference to the Embargo.—*Id.*, Aug. 31.

1825 I do not know that *the Essex Junto* of Boston were monarchists, but I have always heard it so said, and never doubted.—Thomas Jefferson to W. Short, Jan. 8.

**Etchel.** A hatchel.

1857 You will hear [from me] what is called the rough *etchel* to this generation.—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 30: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 158.

**Eternal.** See Tarnal.

**European Plan, The.** The plan of paying by the item, and not by the day, at a hotel.

1847 Her establishment was conducted on the "*European plan*," and silver forks and finger-glasses were things of course.—'Tom Pepper,' i. 201.

**Even date.** The same day on which a letter is written. The phrase is used in an indenture, 1681. (N.E.D.)

**Even steven.** Absolute equality.

1866 Dick says you allowed the members to exchange \$200 of Confederate money for \$200 of State money, "*even steven.*"—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 64.

**Eventuate.** To turn out, to result, to come to a head.

- 1789 I am sure it is wrong, and cannot *eventuate* well.—Gouverneur Morris, in Sparks' 'Life and Writings' (1832), i. 313. (N.E.D.)
- 1821 A rapid rise of Jones's Falls took place, and *eventuated* in a flood.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 8.
- 1835 The squib had *eventuated*, as the Yankees say, . . . in a zig-zag or cracker.—M. Scott, 'Cruise of the Midge,' chap. xii. (N.E.D.)
- 1847 Mr. Root of Ohio did not know how the matter might *eventuate*.—House of Repr., Feb. 5 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 333.
- 1855 He hopes it may "*eventuate*" in something practical.—D. G. Mitchell, 'Fudge Doings,' i. 36-7.
- 1860 A quarrel ensued which *eventuated* in a fight.—*Richmond Enquirer*, June 22, p. 4/3 : from the *Lynchburg Virginian*.
- 1860 The battle now to be fought, at the ballot-box, must *eventuate* in weal or woe to the Union.—*Id.*, Aug. 17, p. 2/1.

**Everglades.** A district in Florida, partly covered by water.

- 1827 Extensive Inundated Region . . . generally called the *Everglades*.—Tanner, 'Map of Florida.' (N.E.D.)
- 1837 From the Eastern coast to the *everglades*, the distance is short.—Preface to John L. Williams's 'Territory of Florida.' They are described, pp. 150-151.
- 1840 [Senators] say there is no good land to be had—nothing but pine barrens, alligator swamps, palmetto jungles, and watery *everglades*. That is an error.—Mr. Benton in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 12 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 96, App.
- 1840 The hammocks and *everglades* form a covering and hiding places for the savages, which render them impervious to the keenest eye and the most vigilant search.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio in the House of Repr., March 26 : *id.*, p. 278, App.
- 1841 Still the Seminole was there ; still did he cling to the *everglades* and the graves of his ancestors.—Mr. Vanderpoel of N.Y., the same, Feb. 1 : *id.*, p. 337, App.

**Evince.** Indicative.

- 1806 A few particulars, which shall be *evincive* of the kind of talents which are necessary to qualify a man.—T. G. Fessenden, 'Democracy Unveiled,' ii. 96. (N.E.D.)
- 1846 His argument for delay . . . [was] quite *evincive* of the scarcity of more solid reasons.—Mr. Dobbin of N. Carolina, House of Repr., Jan. 15 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 108, App.
- 1870 Story's 'Equity Jurisprudence,' p. 167. (N.E.D.)

**Exchanges.** Interchanged newspapers.

1848, 1850. "Our *Exchanges*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 47; xvi. 36.

1849 We have space only for a brief notice of our *Exchanges*.—*Id.*, xiv. 380.

1851 No *Exchanges* have come to hand.—*Id.*, xvi. 372.

1886 "The pulpit and the people are rising, &c."—So remarks an *exchange*.—*Christian Life*, Jan. 23, p. 37. (N.E.D.)

**Exercises.** The canting use of this word came in with the Elizabethan Puritans. See examples 1574, 1592, 1594, 1604, &c., N.E.D.

1808 [Governor Sullivan] was fervent in his devotional *exercises*.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 14.

1810 There was a sermon at the Meetinghouse, and after the *Exercise* the Ladies met at Mr. G.'s house.—*Id.*, Aug. 1.

1830 The *exercises* [at an Anti-masonic meeting] will commence at eleven o'clock.—*Id.*, June 23.

**Executive.** The chief magistrate.

1787 That a national *executive* to consist of a single person be instituted.—Fed. Convention. (N.E.D.)

1787 A national *executive* chosen by the national legislature and ineligible a second time.—John Randolph. (N.E.D.)

1803 Now, if the *executive* had proposed to the house to pass a law, enacting that two and two make seven, &c.—'The Port Folio,' iii. 69 (Phila.).

1811 It may be admitted that all *executives* for the time being are virtuous.—John Quincy. (N.E.D.)

1847 Could they trammel or restrict the action of a future *Executive* as a part of the treaty-making power?—Mr. Chipman of Michigan, House of Repr., Feb. 8: *Cong. Globe*, p. 323, App.

[See also KEYSTONE STATE, 1847.]

1848 I think that an examination of the army list will furnish . . . some justification for the conduct of the *Executive*. At the head of the list, there does seem to be a . . . preponderance of Democratic names; but if you look further down you will discover that the officers appointed by the *Executives* of those States, in which Whig influence prevails, have been selected from the ranks of that party.—Mr. Downs of Louisiana in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 31: *id.*, p. 272.

1910 Mr. Hughes was a candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination two years ago. He cannot complain now if people draw comparisons between the *Executive* at Albany and the *Executive* at Washington, and begin to make their own plans for the Governor's future.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 21.

**Exflunct, -icate, -ify.** To demolish.

- 1832 My wife is a screamer ; she can whip her weight in wild cats ; dine on tenpenny nails ; wash 'em down with aqua fortis ; and row about up Niagara Falls with a crow-bar for an oar ; it's true, every word on't ; if 'taint, I hope I may be tetotaciously *exfluncted*.—*Troy* (N.Y.) *Statesman*, July 3.
- 1839 The mongrel armies are prostrate—used up—*exfluncticated*.—*Chemung* (N.Y.) *Democrat*, Nov. 30.
- 1840 Go it, hog-catchers ! Pound 'em, sell 'em, *exflunctificate* 'em.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, July 9.
- 1840 [It has been proclaimed abroad] that the Administration is bodaciously used up, tetotaciously *exflunctified*.—Mr. Wick of Indiana, House of Repr., July 20 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 545.

**Experience religion.**

- a.1852 He was a wonderful pious pedlar, . . . .had jest *experienced religion*.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' chap. xx. (N.E.D.)
- 1856 A hull lot of fellers *exparienced religion*,—'mong em, old Bob Grimes's boys.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 433 (Oct.).
- 1868 Some went so far as to doubt if she had ever *experienced religion*, for all she was a professor.—O. W. Holmes, 'The Guardian Angel,' chap. xii. (N.E.D.)  
See also GET RELIGION.

**Expose.** An exposure. Pitt used the French *exposé* in 1803, N.E.D. But this was invented independently.

- 1818 The *expose* of the situation of the interior [of the French empire] exceeds the style of modern romance.—*Mass. Spy*, May 14.
- 1830 "Chilton's *Expose*." Heading of an article on the shortcomings of the Jackson Administration.—*Mass. Spy*, May 12.
- 1839 The proper subjects of the future *expose*.—Robert Mays, 'Political Sketches,' p. 55 (Baltimore).
- 1841 And how was this honest *expose* met ? Why, the Federal candidate positively refused to present any "expression of principle for the public eye."—Mr. Duncan of Ohio in the House of Repr., Jan. 25 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 152, App.

**Express.** Express companies undertake the conveyance of parcels, boxes, trunks, &c. The first one, started by Harnden in 1839, became the Adams Express Co. The great express company of the West is the Wells-Fargo Co., which at an early day carried much gold and gold dust.

- 1846 It was true that a private letter was sent ; but not by *express*.—Mr. Ashmun of Mass., House of Repr., April 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 731.

**Express—contd.**

- 1848 The present arrangement was diverting [public money] into the pockets of private *expresses*.—Mr. Goggin of Virginia, the same, June 23 : *id.*, p. 870.
- 1850 Buy me a little dagger, a coral dog, &c., and send them up by *express*.—D. G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' ii. 126 (1852).
- 1851 The religious papers which have the greatest circulation are papers of a small size, and are transmitted mostly by *express*.—Mr. Duncan of Mass., House of Repr., Jan. 15 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 245.
- 1854 There are two large *express companies*, Adams & Co. and Wells, Fargo & Co., which carry mail matter by Nicaragua, charging from twenty-five to fifty cents on a letter.—Mr. Latham of Cal., the same, April 7 : *id.*, p. 872.
- 1862 Not thet I'm one thet much expect'  
Millennium by *express* tomorrow.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd S., No. 7.

**Eye peeled or skinned.** To have this is to be "up to snuff," to be wary.

- 1852 It ain't so bad for one to *keep his eye skinned*, even in this 'ere civilized country.—James Weir, 'Simon Kenton,' p. 12 (Phila.).
- 1853 Young man ! *Keep your eye peeled* when you are after the women.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Jan. 6.
- 1855 We numbered some seventeen members. Our motto was : *Keep your eye skinned*, and remember Lot's wife.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlv. 421 (April).
- 1856 A Southern or Western man, when he goes skewtin' abeout, buyin' goods in bissness hours, *keeps his eye-teeth skinned*.—*Id.*, xlvii. 268 (March).
- 1862 You know I'm a feller thet *keep a skinned eye*  
On the leetle events thet go skurryin' by.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd S., No. 5.
- 1888 Have to *keep your eye skinned*, or some darned rascal will get away with all you've got.—*Texas Siftings*, Aug. 18 (Farmer).





**Face.** To run one's face, or to travel on one's face, is to live on credit. Goldsmith mentions "pushing a face" as one of the three ways of getting into debt. (N.E.D.)

1856 [I] must *travel on my face* after this, when I want to go through [that college].—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 504 (Nov.).

1859 If you have not a ready tongue, and cannot *travel upon your face*, you had better, &c.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxv. 60.

1862 Men thet can *run their face* for drinks, an' keep a Sunday coat. 'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.

**Face the music.** To do one's best in adverse circumstances; to meet difficulties bravely.

1850 Mr. Schenck of Ohio had been accustomed to hear the North lectured,—the North told to "stand up and *face the music*,"—&c.—House of Repr., Jan. 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 81.

1850 I was informed that the gentleman from N. Carolina (Mr. Venable) asked—what?—To *face the music*? No, sir, he asked to be excused from voting; and this is what he calls "*facing the music*."—Mr. Van Dyke of N.J., the same, March 4: *id.*, p. 324, Appendix.

1850 The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Root) asks us to *face the music* on an abstraction of his.—Mr. McClernand of Illinois, the same, Aug. 29: *id.*, p. 1701.

1852 Hastily jumping up, I "*faced the music*" and waited. [Then the choir began].—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xvii. 313.

1853 He knew that he would be obliged to "*face the music*" sooner or later.—'Turnover: a tale of New Hampshire,' p. 58.

1853 [He said] he would anyhow *face the music*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 512 (Nov.).

1857 *The music—why not face it?*—Head-line, *Oregon Weekly Times*, July 8.

1857 A strong determination to *face the music* is everywhere manifested.—*Worcester Spy*, Sept. 22 (Bartlett).

1858 She shall not be the daughter of a sneak. I shall *face the music*.—*Knick. Mag.*, li. 27 (Jan.).

1860 Instead of . . . *facing the music*, the Whig coons thought it best to make as few tracks as possible.—*Richmond Enquirer*, July 27, p. 4/3.

1861 While now and then a weak-kneed doughface has exhibited slight symptoms of an ague, ninety-nine hundredths of the Republicans have *faced the music* like men.—*Oregon Argus*, Feb. 9.

1870 If he *faced the music*, . . . the knives approached closer, . . . till his retreat was a necessity.—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 76 (Phila., &c.).

1878 I like to see a man *face the music*.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Poganuc People,' chap. xviii.

1888 He must not skip out. He must *face the music*.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 20 (Farmer).

**Fair-top Boots.** Those topped with light leather.

- 1826 [John Randolph's] appearance is as grotesque as formerly, except that he does not wear his hair so long, His usual dress in the Senate is a blue coat, buff vest, with red sham, drab small-clothes, and *fair-top boots*—and (*à la Pinkney*) he wears and sometimes speaks in white gloves. —Washington letter of March 2 to the *Rhode Island American*.

**Faker.** A street-vendor of gimcracks, &c.

**Fall.** The autumn. English examples, 1545, 1599, &c., N.E.D. American examples are innumerable.

- 1784 [This] place he would wish to rent as early this *fall* as he could.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Aug. 3.  
 1786 [He] recommends roasting of wheat in the *fall* and spring, to prevent injury from the Hessian Fly.—*Virginia Gazette*, Oct. 18.  
 1796 Advertisement of “Dry Goods, imported in the latest *Fall Vessels*.”—*The Aurora*, Phila., Jan. 2.  
 1800 *Fall* approaches, and we have another trial to go through, viz. the Fever and Ague.—*Id.*, July 24.  
 1804 “A large consignment of *Fall* and Winter Goods” to be sold.—*Salem Register*, Sept. 12.  
 1817 The practice of *fall ploughing* is becoming pretty general in Pennsylvania.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 15.  
 1823 He took me to see his *fall stock*, consisting of . . . about twenty noble beeves, &c.—*Id.*, Dec. 3.  
 1854 Another change subdues them in the *Fall*.—Lowell, ‘Indian Summer Reverie.’

**Fall.** To cut down, to fell. Used by Chaucer; now obs. in England. N.E.D..

- 1677 They were by Beverly commanded to goe to work, *fall* trees, &c.—See *Virginia Magazine*, ii. 168 (1894).  
 1817 A.S., in a piece of chopping that he was clearing, *fell* a tree across a stump.—*Mass. Spy*, June 11.  
 1823 I think it time to remove, when I can no longer *fall* a tree.—E. James, ‘Rocky Mountain Expedition,’ i. 105 (Phila.).

**Fall.** To lower, to reduce. The N.E.D. gives examples of falling a gun (1692), falling the eyelids (1748), falling vessels in a canal (1795).

- 1806 I’ll sooner throw my ware away  
 Than *fall* a groat from what I say.  
*Mass. Spy*, July 9: from the *Luzerne Federalist*.  
 1820 A man said he had killed a hundred snakes in a few minutes, each as large as his leg. “I do not dispute it,” replied his friend; “but would be better satisfied if you would *fall a snake or two*.”—Hall’s ‘Letters from the West,’ p. 349 (Lond.).  
 1847 “Can’t you *fall* a dollar?” “Perhaps I might.”—D. P. Thompson, ‘Locke Amsden,’ p. 59 (Boston).

**Fall**—*contd.*

- 1855 "I say I saw twenty-five, and I will not *fall another snake*."  
—Mr. Benton's version of the story: *Cong. Globe*, p. 483 (Jan. 31).
- 1880 Joe Meek said he had walked about 385 miles in eight days, with nothing to eat but one thistle-root. I replied, "That was a most extraordinary adventure, Joe; and while I don't pretend to question your veracity in the least, don't you really think you might safely *fall a snake or two* in the distance?—Peter H. Burnett, 'Recollections,' p. 159.

**Fall-back chaise.** One with an adjustable hood.

- 1767 "A *Fall-back Chaise* " for sale.—*Boston-Gazette*, Oct. 12.
- 1772 "To be sold, a new *Fall-back Chaise*."—*Mass. Spy*, June 25.
- 1774 Same advertisement, *Salem Gazette*, Aug. 19.

**Family Pie.** A large pumpkin pie. (New England.)

- 1818 But give me the feast where no knives and forks clatter,  
Where each to the neat cherry table draws nigh,  
And carves for himself from the broad earthen platter  
A slice of the sweet yellow *family pie*.  
*Note.*—*Family pie* is, in the New England dialect, nearly synonymous with mammoth pie.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 7: from the *Columbia Centinel*.

**Fan.** The sail of a windmill.

- 1788 I will sell or exchange four excellent well made Dutch *fans*.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Feb. 26.
- 1825 Defined by Nicholson in his Glossary. (N.E.D.)
- Fan.** A base-ball enthusiast. Modern slang. The juvenile "fan" is called a "rooter."
- 1901 The word is noted in 'Dialect Notes,' ii. 139.
- 1907 Race-track *Fans* drop much coin.—Heading in *Sunday Oregonian*, Sept. 15.
- 1909 Open Season for *Fans* and Bugs.—The same, *Oregonian*, Jan. 24.
- 1909 The information of the average *fan* as to how the gate money is divided between the clubs is misty.—*The Book-keeper*, May.
- 1910 The average baseball *fan* labors under the impression that the moist ball can be thrown only with an overhand delivery. That's a mistake.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, May 19.

**Fanny-Wright men, &c.** Fanny Wright was a woman of "advanced" ideas, who about 1829-1836 gave lectures in Eastern cities. She married a man named Darusmont. See 'Dict. Nat. Biog.'

- 1829 In relation to its effect on morals or religion, [one hogs-head of rum] would show the same results as Tom Paine's writings or Miss Frances Wright's lectures.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 9: from *The Journal of Humanity*.

**Fanny-Wright men, &c.—*contd.***

- 1830 Mary Wolstoncraft and Fanny Wright and a few others are merely oases in the boundless desert of female frivolity and insipidity.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 99.
- 1834 They have elected an avowed infidel, a trustee of the *Fanny Wright fund*.—*Vermont Free Press*, Dec. 20.
- 1836 I care not whether the *Fanny Wright doctrines* or Agrarianism prevail.—*Knicker. Mag.*, vii. 43 (Jan.).
- 1836 In permitting Fanny Wright, or Mrs. Frances Wright Darusmont, to advertise her lectures, we do not announce ourselves as the advocates of any sentiments uttered by her.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Sept. 26.
- 1838 In a city of 300,000 inhabitants, 2,000 radicals, agrarians, *Fanny-Wright men*, and Locofocos can be found.—Major Noah in the *N.Y. Evening Star*: cited in Buckingham's 'America,' i. 176 (1841).
- 1838 Mr. M. might have made his [paper] a champion of Atheism, and the express organ of Fanny Wright in religion as well as politics, without a word of comment from us.—*The Jeffersonian*, Sept. 1, p. 223.
- 1838 (Oct.) Fanny Wright lectured in the Masonick Hall.—*Chemung (N.Y.) Democrat*, Nov. 8.
- 1840 Mr. Preston of South Carolina regretted to see the prevalence of such disorganizing and levelling doctrines, which were of the *Fanny Wright school* of politicians.—U.S. Senate, Feb. 14: *Congressional Globe*, p. 179, Appendix.
- 1844 [The phrase] the *Fanny-Wright party*, is, in the anger of debate, sometimes applied to the democratic party.... This charge of *Fanny-Wrightism*, as applied to the democratic party, has no foundation in truth.—Mr. Wentworth of Illinois in the House of Representatives, April: *id.*, p. 510, App.
- 1844 Was the gentleman afraid that there was not enough *Fanny-Wrightism* in Indiana, and deemed it necessary to add to it?—Mr. Hardin of Ill., the same, March 29: *id.*, p. 464.

**Fast Freight.**

- 1881 The Commercial Express *Fast-Freight* line.—*Chicago Times*, March 12. (N.E.D.)

**Fast Horse.** A good trotter.

- 1854 He made the old man give him a *fast horse*, and a pinter dog, and a gun.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 124.
- 1857 How I longed for a dashing American cutter, with a span of *fast horses*!—Bayard Taylor, 'Northern Travel,' p. 155. (N.E.D.)

**Fat Pine.** Pine-wood abounding in pitch. Dryden has fat amber, 1697. N.E.D.

- 1808 A pine post, *fat with pitch*, had taken fire.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 9.

**Fat Pine—contd.**

- 1846 Jim Clark has gone into the woods for *fat pine*.—‘Quarter Race in Kentucky,’ &c., p. 85.
- 1856 A rich cheering blaze, such as good *fat lightwood* only could afford.—W. G. Simms, ‘Eutaw,’ p. 74 (N.Y.).
- 1856 He carries some fine splinters of the *fattest lightwood*, which takes fire at a touch.—*Id.*, p. 261.
- 1857 On entering, the guide will light a torch of *fat pine*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxii. 263.

**Fault, v.** To blame, to find fault with. English examples dating from 1559, N.E.D.

- 1820 The omission of the Article of Christ’s descent into Hell was the thing principally *faulted*.—Bishop White’s ‘Memoirs of the P.E. Church,’ p. 116.
- 1841 I do not desire to *fault* the present Executive, or that it should be *faulted* by the next Administration.—Mr. Everett of Vermont in the House of Representatives, Feb. 13 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 376, App.
- 1851 [That picter] I *faults* in only wun purtickler.—‘Adventures of Captain Suggs, &c.,’ p. 141 (Phila.).
- 1851 Suggs is a nice man in his talk. Nobody can *fault* him, as far as that’s concerned.—‘Widow Rugby’s Husband,’ p. 19 (Phila.).
- 1857 When *faulting* me, they were the branches that had withered.—H. C. Kimball at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Jan. 25 : ‘Journal of Discourses,’ iv. 274.
- 1907 We are aware that this has been *faulted* as a mere Americanism.—*Church Standard*, Phila., July 27.
- 1907 The Bishop of Porto Rico is *faulted* for inviting Presbyterian, Methodist, and Lutheran ministers to speak at the opening of a new church at San Juan.—*Id.*, Nov. 30.

**Favor.** To resemble. English examples, 1609, &c., N.E.D.

- α.1870 Now I look at the girl, she does *favor* you, old man.—F. Bret Harte, ‘A Ward of Colonel Starbottle’s.’

**Favorite Son.** See quotation, 1888. Mr. Albert Matthews of Boston, Feb. 1910, read a paper before the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, concerning this phrase, from which the present compiler has borrowed copiously.

- 1789 May 1. The *New York Daily Gazette* remarked : “Yesterday the Great and Illustrious Washington, the *favourite son* of liberty, and deliverer of his country, entered upon the execution of the office of First Magistrate of the United States of America.
- 1789 In a Fourth-of-July ode, written by Daniel George at Portland, Mass., Washington is styled “The friend of Liberty—*Columbia’s favourite son*.”—*Mass. Centinel*, July 8.
- 1789 A triumphal arch erected in Boston in October, on the occasion of Washington’s tour, had on it an oval tablet, inscribed on one side “To *Columbia’s favourite son*.”—*Id.*, Oct. 28.

**Favorite Son**—*contd.*

1789 On his arrival at Portsmouth, N.H., he was greeted by the singing of three odes, one of which included these words :—

Thrice hail, *Columbia's fav'rite Son*,  
Thrice welcome, matchless Washington.

*Id.*, Nov. 11.

1825 [John Randolph] thought himself unkindly treated by his native State. He will now, I trust, see in himself her *favorite son*.—Henry St. George Tucker to Dr. Brockenbrough, December : 'Life of Randolph,' ii. 240 (1851).

1835 [Some of the papers] contained pretty strong eulogiums on the character and talents of the *favourite son of New York* [Martin Van Buren].—'Life on the Lakes,' i. 30 (N.Y., 1836).

1840 What motive has this great state to abandon her *Favorite Son* [M. Van Buren] for such a person ?—Address of the Democratic Members of the Legislature of New York to the Electors of the State : 'Niles's Register,' lviii. 250.

1840 It must have gladdened the heart of old Virginia's "*favorite son*" [William C. Rives] to receive these unbought testimonials of esteem from the democracy of New York.—*Id.*, lix. 98.

1844 The Hon. James Buchanan, the *favorite son* of Pennsylvania for the next Presidency.—Resolution of Democratic Convention. *id.*, lxxv. 57.

1846 [Van Buren left] the fickle dame called Fortune with her new "*favorite son*," William Henry Harrison, who, like Nelson at Trafalgar, was soon to expire in the arms of victory.—W. L. Mackenzie, 'Life of Martin Van Buren,' p. 102 (Boston).

1848 [The address is] in recommendation of James Buchanan, "*the favorite son of Pennsylvania*."—'Niles's Register,' lxxiii. 393.

1848 No man of his distinguished talents can be permitted to act a manly part upon an elevated theatre, lest he overshadow this "*favorite son*" [*i.e.* James Buchanan].—Mr. Wilmot of Pennsylvania, House of Representatives, Feb. 7 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 186, App.

1858 As to Pennsylvania, her *favorite son* [James Buchanan] has ascended to power. He has disappointed her hopes. He has soured her spirit. The charm is gone. The spell is broken.—Mr. Cragin of N. Hampshire, the same, May 24 : *id.*, p. 396, App.

1888 A *Favourite Son* is a politician respected or admired in his own State, but little regarded beyond it. He may not be, like the Dark Horse, little known to the nation at large, but he has not fixed its eye or filled its ear. He is usually a man who has sat in the State legislature ; filled with credit the post of State governor ; perhaps gone as senator or representative to Washington, and there approved himself an active promoter of local interests. Probably he possesses the qualities which gain local popularity—geniality,



**Favorite Son—contd.**

activity, sympathy with the dominant sentiments and habits of his State; or while endowed with gifts excellent in their way, he has lacked the audacity and tenacity which push a man to the front through a jostling crowd. More rarely he is a demagogue who has raised himself by flattering the masses of his State on some local questions, or a skilful handler of party organizations who has made local bosses and spoilsmen believe that their interests are safe in his hands. Anyhow, his personality is such as to be more effective with neighbours than with the nation, as a lamp whose glow fills the side chapel of a cathedral sinks to a spark of light when carried into the nave.—Bryce's 'American Commonwealth,' i. 552 (Lond.).

**Fay in.** To fit in.

- 1847 I have no notion of spoiling sense to make it *fay in* with book rules.—D. P. Thompson, 'Locke Amsden,' p. 138 (Boston).
- 1866        There's gaps our lives can't never *fay in*.  
                 'Biglow Papers,' 2nd S., No. 10. (N.E.D.)
- 1868 One of the things that *fayed right in*.—Mrs. Whitney, 'P. Strong,' p. 128. (N.E.D.)
- 1906 The explanation of the canals as threads of vegetation *fays in* with the former.—Percival Lowell, 'Mars and its Canals,' p. 347.

**Faze.** To upset, to disconcert.

- 1843 I dissarned a leetle sprinkle of snow and a likelihood of a snow storm. Howsomever, this didn't *faze* me, only I steps back for my old camlit cloak.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 174.
- 1852 The 18 lb. shot struck [General Scott] in the pit of the stomach, and never *phased* him.—*Oregonian*, Dec. 25.
- 1859 Such a stomach that even a dram of nitric acid would not *faze* it.—*Harper's Weekly*, July 16.
- 1890 This blow, although a fearful one, did not "*faze*" me.—*Columbus (O.) Dispatch*, July 22. (N.E.D.)

**Fed, Federalist.** One of the party of Alexander Hamilton, opposed to Jeffersonian notions.

- 1787 Cherishing the spirit and supporting the character of *Federalists*.—James Madison in *The Federalist*, No. 10. (N.E.D.)
- 1787 An "Address to all *Federalists*," by "Curtius" of New York.—'American Museum,' ii. 381-4.
- 1788 This town [Carlisle, Pa.] is now divided into two distinct parties, *Federalists* and *Antifederalists*, and almost the whole county of Cumberland is of the last description.—*Maryland Journal*, Feb. 18.
- 1788 See also the address of "Freeman" to the Freemen of Baltimore-Town.—*Id.*, Feb 19.



**Fed, Federalist—contd.**

- 1788 The famous Dr. Spring asked a lady on which side she was, *fed.* or *antifed.*—*Id.*, June 3.
- 1799 Some of the *feds* gave themselves airs, and said they would not vote for him.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Jan. 8.
- 1799 The southern *feds* have been completely jockeyed.—*Id.*, Feb. 13.
- 1799 True *Feds*, that is, friends to old measures,  
Who the maxims of Georgy pursue,  
His bloodhounds to feast on our treasures.  
*Id.*, May 24.
- 1799 The drunken *Feds* vowed they were as good royalists, and as fond of monarchy as any of Georgy's chickens.—*Id.*, June 10.
- 1800 The nicknames *Anglo-federal*, *Anglo-federalism*, &c., were also current.—*Id.*, Sept. 20, 25, &c.
- 1800 I am a trimming *fed'ralist*,  
And Jefferson I will resist ;  
Should he succeed, then I can twist  
Round readily. *Id.*, Nov. 28.
- 1800 The same paper, Feb. 17, published a satirical analysis or Table of Component Parts of the federal party :—  
I. The party called the President's [John Adams's] friends.  
1. The New England Party.  
2. The Connecticut Illuminati.  
3. The Office-hunting party.  
II. The Hamiltonian party.  
4. The old tory and refugee party.  
5. The army and navy, place and profit-hunting party.  
6. The funding, banking, and loan party.  
7. The British agency and speculating party.  
8. The monarchical and anti-gallican party.
- 1802 "Letters to Alexander Hamilton, King of the *Feds*," were published in New York.
- 1804 While Burrites and *Feds* abuse Tommy the Great,  
And call him a trimmer, and leader of asses,  
By his prudence and foresight we've gained a great state,  
Abounding in whisky and lakes of molasses.  
*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 22. [The allusion is to Thomas Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase.]
- 1805 The *Federalist's* hobby to talk, not to act is,  
In theory perfect, deficient in practice.  
Like the victim at Gaza, they sleep without fear,  
And permit the Philistines their tresses to shear.  
*Id.*, July 17.

**Federal City, The.** Washington.

- 1793 "A lottery for the improvement of the *Federal City*" is advertised in the *Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., June 12.
- 1795 Situated upon the banks of the Patowmac, there are already two towns, both in the vicinity of the *federal city*.—Isaac Weld, 'Travels through N. America,' p. 40 (Lond., 1799).

**Federal City, The**—*contd.*

- 1801 The whole conduct of affairs, relative to the *Federal City*, has been, &c. . . . I have employed nearly two numbers, upon this single subject, the *Federal City*.—*The Port Folio*, i. 26, 34 (Phila.).

**Federals.** A term applied to the Northern armies and soldiers in the civil war, as being supporters of the Federal government.

- 1842 The term "the *Federal army*," as well as "the American army," was applied by Mr. Black of Georgia to the army of the U.S., in the House of Representatives, May 24: *Cong. Globe*, p. 418, App.
- 1861 A sad disaster to the *Federal army*.—O. W. Holmes, 'Old Vol. of Life' (1891), p. 2. (N.E.D.)
- 1870 Two grand campaigns were now again clearly developed by the *Federals*.—A. H. Stephens, 'History of the War,' ii. 582. (N.E.D.)

**Feel.** To feel inclined.

- 1852 It makes me *feel* to loathe such hypocritical show.—Brigham Young, Aug. 1: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 362.
- 1853 This was the language of some hearts; and I *feel* to say, damn all such poor-pussyism.—Elder J. M. Grant at the Tabernacle, Aug. 7: *id.*, i. 348.
- 1854 The Twelve *feel* to be one with the First President, as they are with each other.—H. C. Kimball, the same, Nov. 26: *id.*, ii. 158.
- 1855 I *felt* to rejoice, last Sabbath, while sitting in this stand.—W. Woodruff, the same, Feb. 25: *id.*, ii. 191.
- 1855 I always did *feel*, when I saw a man abusing his oxen, to lay the whip about his back.—George A. Smith at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, April 8: *id.*, ii. 367.
- 1855 When I saw a funeral, I *felt* to envy the corpse its situation, and to regret that I was not in the coffin.—Brigham Young, July 14, at Provo: *id.*, iii. 264.
- 1857 I do not *feel* to detain the congregation.—John Young at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, April 8: *id.*, vi. 234.

**Feel good, feel bad.** To be elated or depressed.

- 1854 You will see how *good* we will make the transient residents *feel*.—H. C. Kimball at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sept. 17: 'Jour. Disc.,' ii. 224.
- 1857 I do *feel bad* to think that men will enter into the covenant, and then defile themselves with uncleanness.—The same, Dec. 13: *id.*, vi. 126.
- 1888 The saloons are going Saturday afternoon, and the men *feel pretty good*.—*Texas Siftings*, Sept. 15 (Farmer).

**Feel like.** To feel like doing a thing is to feel inclined to do it.

1855 Many times brother Joseph [Smith] would say, "Brethren, I have not apostatized yet, and don't *feel like* doing so."—Brigham Young, April 6: 'Jour. Disc.,' ii. 257.

1856 I *feel like* taking men and women by the hair of their heads, figuratively speaking, and like crying, Stop, before you ruin yourselves.—The same, March 2: *id.*, iii. 225.

1857 Through the conduct of the people, Moses sometimes *felt like* fighting.—The same, Nov. 29: *id.*, vi. 101.

**Feet, A.** Also **Geese, A.** This piece of attempted wit is fortunately obsolete.

1840 O! I wish I was a *geese*,  
All forlorn, all forlorn,  
For they eat their grass in peace,  
And they 'cumulate much grease,  
Eating corn.

*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, Oct. 11.

1842 Oct. 11. [A feet.] See COON.

1842 The humbug "sticks out a *feet*."—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, March 12.

1844 The contest will ultimately be settled over "a *feet*." of pipe.—*Id.*, Feb. 7.

1846 [Mr. Brinkerhoff] informed us that he spoke more in sorrow than in anger. Well, that may be so. Yet I could not see his "sorry." His "mad" stuck out "a *feet and upward*."—Mr. Wick of Indiana, House of Representatives, July 1: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1042, App.

a.1852 The affectation sticks out about a *feet*, as we say in Dutch.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 103.

a.1853 His head is very like a deer's, barring the horns, which are "about a *feet*" in length.—*Id.*, iv. 258.

1857 A lady with a crinoline was walking down the street,  
Her feathers fluttering in the air, her hoops stuck out  
a *feet*.

'Crinoline in Rhyme,' *San Francisco Call*, April 1.

**Fellowship, v.** To associate with, usually on the basis of church membership. [Also to DISFELLOWSHIP, to turn out of an organized society.] The word goes back to 1410, N.E.D., but does not appear to have been introduced into America by the early Puritans.

1813 We considered him heretical, . . . and refused to *fellowship* with him.—Address to the Christian Public, Greenfield: Pickering (1816).

1831 They were *disfellowshipped* by the association.—*Troy* (N.Y.) *Watchman*, Sept. 3.

1844 Why should [Rigdon] say on the public stand, "Brethren, I want to live with you and to die with you," while he wept aloud, if he did not *fellowship* the church?—Letter of Orson Hyde, in *The Prophet* (N.Y.), Oct. 15.

**Fellowship, v.—contd.**

- 1845 "Notice. This is to certify that Elder Godfery (*sic*) of Mansfield, Connecticut, is *disfellowshipped* from the Church....of the Latter-Day Saints, for not obeying the Council of Twelve, and is hereby cited to appear before the Council at Nauvoo, Ill."—Advt. in *The Prophet*, N.Y., April 19.
- 1847 If the Christian Alliance could not *fellowship* with the Southern slaveholders, they ought to say so outright.—Speech at a conference, May 8 (Bartlett).
- 1850 "*Disfellowshipped*. William B. Marshall of Savannah, Mo., for idleness, intemperance, and gambling."—Notice in the *Frontier Guardian* (Orson Hyde ed.), May 1.
- 1850 The [Wesleyan] conference gets into a "pretty considerable fix," from which it endeavors to extricate itself by *disfellowshipping* the obnoxious parties.—*Id.*, May 29.
- 1853 Esau forsook his brother, and disowned relationship, *fellowshipping* with his brother's persecutors.—P. P. Pratt at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake, April 10: 'Jour. Disc.,' i. 261.
- 1853 I would *disfellowship* a man who had received liberally from the Lord, and refused to put it out to usury.—Brigham Young, June 5: *id.*, i. 255.
- 1857 I do not *fellowship* them [in whisky-drinking], but I *disfellowship* them for so doing.—H. C. Kimball, at the Tabernacle, Dec. 27: *id.*, vi. 192.
- 1870 They had imbibed the spirit of apostasy to that degree that they could not any longer be *fellowshipped*, and they were cut off from the [Mormon] Church.—Rae, 'Westward by Rail,' p. 155 (Lond.).
- 1878 'Tain't natur that a great lazy sozzlin' girl is one a woman will *fellowship*, if she ain't no way related.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' chap. xxxiii.
- 1881 One little irritation we have suffered [in reading Dexter's 'Congregationalism,'] and that is from the ugly use of *fellowship* and even *disfellowship* as verbs.—*Atlantic Monthly*, Feb.
- 1886 He never *fellowshipped* with any of our churches.—*Christian Life*, May 1. (N.E.D.)

**Fell's Pointer.** A resident of the Wapping of Baltimore.

- 1795 At this time Fell's Point was "chiefly the residence of seafaring people, and of the younger partners of mercantile houses, who are stationed there to attend to the shipping."—Isaac Weld, 'Travels through North America,' p. 26 (Lond., 1799).
- 1812 Those who had escaped from the fangs of the infuriate ruffians of Fell's Point [in the Baltimore riots].—*Boston-Gazette*, Aug. 10.
- 1848 You see, ses he, I'm one of the b'hoys,—a out and out *Fell's Pointer*.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 78.



**Fence, on the—contd.**

1856 They never knew Slocome to be anywhere sure, but *on the fence*.—*San Francisco Call*, Dec. 12.

1862 I mean a kin' o' hangin' roun' an' settin' *on the fence*.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3. (N.E.D.)

1866 Afore the war your mod'rit mei.  
Could set an' sun 'em *on the fences*,  
Cyph'rin' the chances up, an' then  
Jump off which way bes' paid expenses.

*Id.*, No. 11.

1885 "Well, Mr. Potter," said I, "I suppose you are an out and out rebel." "You bet I am," replied that worthy. "And me too," said Mr. Opdyke, "though day afore yesterday I was *on the fence*."—Admiral Porter, 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 83.

**Fence-man.** One who is on the fence. Rare.

1848 All the *fence-men*, all the doubters, all the seekers after majorities, will now....declare that Gen. Taylor is the most popular man in the country.—*N.Y. Herald*, Oct. 14 (Bartlett).

**Fence-viewer.** See quotations.

1647 In 1647, *fence viewers* were appointed, by whom....every new building had to be approved.—'Johns Hopkins Univ. Stud.,' iv. 20. (N.E.D.)

1842 [All the] civil officers, from the highest functionary down to the *fence-viewer*.—Mr. Hastings of Ohio in the House of Representatives, July 9: *Cong. Globe*, p. 699, App.

1877 See HOG-REEVE.

**Ferry-flat.** A rustic ferry-boat.

1828 The *ferry-flat* is a scow-boat.—T. Flint, 'The Mississippi Valley,' i. 230. (N.E.D.)

**Flee, flste, fyst, &c.** A worthless dog. Southern. Examples of *fisting dog* occur 1529, 1576, 1688; Chapman has *foisting hounds*, ab. 1611; Davenant, *foisting mongrels*, 1656.

See N.E.D.

1842 Private individuals were bull-dogged, or *fice-dogged*, if the gentleman pleases.—Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina in the House of Representatives, April 28: *Cong. Globe*, p. 478. He went on to say that no member of the committee bore any resemblance, either in looks or in conduct, to a long, lean, lank, half starved, hungry——. Here the Chair stopped him.

1843 Did you ever see a pack composed of five or six little *fice dogs*, barking furiously?—*Missouri Reporter*, St. Louis, June 29.

1851 "I'll bury you, you little whifflin *fice*," said Captain Suggs.—'Adventures of Capt. Suggs,' p. 88 (Phila.).

1851 [The sounding of the horn] was sufficient invitation to every hound, *foist*, and "cur of low degree" to join in the chorus.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 18.

**Fice, fiste, fyst, &c.—*contd.***

- 1853 I would just as soon hear a little *phice*—*fice dog* bark, as a candidate boasting himself.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, March 14.
- 1854 I jumped several feet, and hollered: Get eout, you *fiest dog*! you *dog fiest*, get eout!—*Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 5.
- 1855 I had got nearly to the bottom, when a little *fiste dog* came trotting up the entry.—*Id.*, Aug. 11.
- 1860 John Bell may indeed be a very "little dog"—yea, a most excellent *fice*.—*Richmond Enquirer*, July 10, p. 1/5.
- 1862 Bull-dog, terrier, cur, and *fice*,  
Back to the beggarly land of ice;  
Worry 'em, bite 'em, scratch and tear  
Every body and everywhere.  
*Rockingham (Va.) Register*, n.d.
- 1863 What other Pete can I mean but your dirty little *fice dog*? —J. B. Jones, 'Wild Western Scenes,' p. 15 (Richmond, Va.).
- 1866 [I had] a neighbor, who was one of these mean little snarling *fice-dog* sort of men.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 114.
- 1866 Dodds says, before he'd pull a trigger for Thad Stevens, he'd have his soul transmigrated to a *bench-leg'd fice*.—*Id.*, p. 159.
- 1874 [The barking ranged] all the way from the contemptible treble of an ill-natured "*fice*" to the deep baying of a huge bulldog.—Edward Eggleston, 'The Circuit Rider,' p. 72 (Lond., 1895).
- 1890 [The frontiersmen] hide and coddle a little *fyst dog*, or make a soft place for a pet antelope, and take care of these creatures like trained nurses.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 78.
- 1890 All the dogs of the regiment were with us, apparently, from the lofty and high-born staghounds down to the little *feist*, or mongrel, of the trooper.—*Id.* p. 221.
- 1902 A *bench-legged fiste* is a small dog of the bull-dog type, with square breast and fore legs wide apart. (Southern Illinois.)—'Dialect Notes,' ii. 234.

**Fid, Fid-hook.** See quotations.

- 1851 We judged that, after having knocked out the "*fid*," which united the chain that bound the load, the log rolled suddenly upon him.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 107 (N.Y.).
- 1851 He examines above all the "*fid-hook*" and the "dog-hook," the former that it does not work out, the latter that it loose not its grappling hold upon the tree.—*Id.*, p. 108.

**Fiddler.** See first quotation.

- 1714 *Fidlers* are a sort of small Crabs, that lie in Holes in the Marshes.—J. Lawson, 'Carolina,' p. 162. (N.E.D.)
- 1839 [I showed] an extraordinary tact in roasting crabs and *fiddlers*, oysters and sand eels.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' i. 16.
- 1852 *Sand-fiddler*, the local name for a small animal of the shell-fish kind, which abounds on the Carolina beach.—C. H. Wiley, 'Life in the South,' p. 30n. (Phila.).

**Field hand.** A "darky" doing agricultural work.

- 1835 At this time, when cotton brings a good price, a good "*field hand*" cannot be bought for less than eight hundred dollars, if a male; if a female, for six hundred.—J. H. Ingraham, 'The South-West,' ii. 244 (N.Y.).
- 1856 Able-bodied *field hands* were hired out at the rate of one hundred dollars a year.—Olmsted, 'Slave States,' p. 46. (N.E.D.)

**Fifty-Four Forty or Fight.** The motto of the war party of 1846, with reference to the Oregon question. See quot. 1854. On March 21, 1846, *Punch* had a cartoon relating to the matter.

- 1846 The popularity of the President depended not on his 54° 40', but upon his moderation and wisdom.—Mr. Wood of N.Y. in the House of Repr., Jan. 31: *Cong. Globe*, p. 290.
- 1846 He thinks, when all are united, and so very desirous for 54° 40', if we only wake up we will astonish ourselves.—Mr. Dayton of N.J. in the U.S. Senate: *id.*, p. 453.
- 1846 See JAM UP.
- 1854 During the year 1846, the country went crazy for about six months in favor of the Baltimore platform, "54° 40' or fight." . . . That same declaration was thundered here by the press from day to day. It was very popular, and the canal-boats, and even some of the babies, it was said, were christened 54° 40'.—Mr. Clayton of Delaware in the U.S. Senate, June 15: *id.*, p. 1000, App.

**Fight it out on this line.** A famous expression used by General Grant, which passed into common use.

- 1910 Arguing in favor of leaving the proposed income tax amendment as it stands and *fighting it out on that line*, the *Springfield Republican* says:—*N.Y. Evening Post*, May 9.

**Fight the Tiger.** To play against the bank at faro.

- 1851 "Simon starts forth to *fight the Tiger*."—Heading of chap. iv., 'Adventures of Simon Suggs,' Phila.
- 1857 See Appendix X.
- 1852 On their return from "*fighting the tiger*," they bathed, changed their linen, &c.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 127 (N.Y.).



**Fight the Tiger—contd.**

- 1852 Such is "*the tiger*," as the faro-table is called at the Springs: why, I never could learn.—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 317 (Oct.).
- 1853 I've broke Budd's, and shut up his "*Tiger*" for this night at least.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 217.
- 1857 See Appendix X.
- 1863 At night [in Denver] you have a choice of two theatres, perhaps a dance, a game of billiards, ten pins, a social visit,—most anything, even to *bucking the tiger*, which we wouldn't advise any one to do.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Jan. 29.
- 1865 Many penniless fellows, "dead-broke" from repeated *fights with the tiger*, stand near.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' iii. 45 (Richmond, Va., 1877).
- 1870 In the U.S., the operation of staking one's money in a gaming hell is called "*Fighting the Tiger*."—Rae, 'Westward by Rail,' p. 244.
- 1910 Keliher so dominated Coleman, that the latter could not resist numerous inducements to "*buck the tiger*" in New York, despite the fact that losses were continuous.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, May 19.

**Figure on, to.** To make calculations.

- 1837 I cannot understand the Secretary's report. I *figured upon* its data until I threw down my slate in despair.—Mr. Wise of Virginia in the House of Representatives, Sept. 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 247, App.
- 1909 We always *figure on* supplying more lenses in July and August than in all the rest of the year, [said the optician].—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 7.

**Filibuster.** A free-booter, a marauder.

- 1835 Your face did wear a most *Blifustier* expression. (Note.) *Blifustier* was one of the names conferred by the Dutch, by which the early buccaniers of America were known.... A good wind, sir, would carry this *Blifustier* beyond the fort.—W. G. Simms, 'The Yemassee,' i. 256, 279 (N.Y.).
- 1855 Suppose a *fillibusterer* should come along.—*Olympia* (W.T.) *Pioneer*, Sept. 7.
- 1855 Judge Gayle had decided that the *filibuster* bark "*Magnolia*," as well as the arms on board, were not forfeited to the U.S.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Sept. 15.
- 1857 "Wanted—a few *filibusters*."—Heading of a paper in *Harper's Weekly*, Jan. 10.
- 1857 It is reported that General Henningsen and General Walker have met at Savannah; and it is privately understood that a new *Filibuster* expedition against Nicaragua is on foot.—*Id.*, Aug. 22.
- 1858 Her brave little heart was bent on *fillibustering*.—*Knick. Mag.*, li. 174 (Feb.).
- 1860 Success always transforms the mere *flybuster* into a hero of the first magnitude.—*Oregon Argus*, Oct. 13.

**Filibuster**—*contd.*

- 1861 All *filibuster* leaders gave the promise to their men of land and slaves.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' i. 136.
- 1869 A party of *filibusters* from Zorah and Eshcol captured the place [Laish].—'New Pilgrim's Progress,' chap. xv.

**Filibustering** (in politics). Wasting time in the legislature, and obstructing progress.

- 1853 When I saw my friend *filibustering*, as I thought, against the United States,....I did not know what to think.—Mr. Brown of Miss., House of Repr., Jan. 3 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 194.
- 1858 [They] consumed the day by *filibustering*, and now they hold their hands up in holy horror because the Private Calendar is to be overslaughed.—Mr. McQueen of S. Car., the same, May 21 : *id.*, p. 2293.
- 1861 This "*filibustering*" [in Congress] was resorted to at every attempt to consider [Mr. McIntyre's] appointment.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' i. 171.
- 1882 The objectionable practices of "*filibustering*" and "stonewalling."—Sir M. H. Beach, *Standard*, March 24. (N.E.D.)
- 1885 Ex-Confederates *Filibuster* to Prevent a vote on the Bill.—Heading in the *Boston Journal*, Feb. 20. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 Mr. Bland did not oppose these measures in a *filibustering* spirit.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 22 (Farmer).
- 1889 A humiliating "treaty" with a single determined "*filibuster*."—*Boston Journal*, Jan. 14. (N.E.D.)

**Fill.** To fulfil. O.E., ab. 1300. N.E.D.

- 1836 From age to age [the negroes] have *filled* this saying ["Cursed be Canaan"].—Mr. Bouldin of Virginia, House of Repr., Jan. 20 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 50, App.

**Fill.** The opposite of an excavation.

- 1850 It was like....making deep cuts and large *fills* with a view to construct a railroad.—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, U.S. Senate, April 4 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 531, Appendix.
- 1884 The *fill* will be 150 feet long.—*Lisbon (Dakota) Star*, July 18. (N.E.D.)

**Fill the bill.** To meet all requirements : to come up to the mark.

- 1862 "Are you the celebrated Parson Brownlow?" "I'm the only man on earth," I replied, "that *fills the bill*."—*N.Y. Herald*, May 16. (From Bartlett, who by a strange error classes it under "Fill the bin.")
- 1866 "Call him fat," said I, "and you'll *fill the bill*."—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 125.
- 1869 I wanted a horse that could stay, and this one *fills the bill*.—'New Pilgrim's Progress,' chap. xi.
- 1882 "Affable Imbecile" would about *fill the bill* for you.—*Chicago Tribune*, n.d. (N.E.D.)

**Fill the bill—contd.**

- 1882 Walsh is the boss witness of the day, and hereafter should let himself out to lie by contract. No matter how great it may be, he will be able to *fill the bill*.—*The Critic*, Washington, July 25.
- 1889 The bayonet shank was the candlestick of the rank and file, who used that implement. It was always available, and just "*filled the bill*" in other respects.—J. D. Billings, 'Hard Tack and Coffee,' p. 78 (Boston).

**Fill a prescription, or an order.** To make it up.

- 1860 The Executive of the State is making the most strenuous efforts to *fill the orders* for arms that come to him from all parts of the State.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 2, p. 1/7.
- 1891 The individual who *fills their prescriptions*.—H. Tuckley, 'Under the Queen,' p. 25. (N.E.D.)

**Finals.** Final settlements of the U.S.

- 1788 Wanted at said office, *Finals*, Depreciation Certificates, and every other kind of Paper retaining any kind of value.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Feb. 26.
- 1788 *Finals* given for Loan Office certificates, at a moderate allowance.—*Id.*, May 27.
- 1788 To be exchanged, *Finals* for Bar-Iron, on generous terms.—*Id.*, Oct. 28.

**Fine as a fiddle.** The N.E.D. has "fit as a fiddle," 1882, 1889.

- 1811 Thus happy I hop'd I should pass  
Slick as grease down the current of time;  
But pleasures are brittle as glass,  
Although *as a fiddle they're fine*.  
*Mass. Spy*, March 20.

**Fine as silk.** In excellent condition.

- 1836 *Fine as silk*, colonel, and leetle finer.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 60 (Phila.).
- 1839 Are you well? *Fine as silk*, said Mr. Lummucks.—Charles F. Briggs, 'Harry Franco,' i. 72.
- 1856 He replied to my inquiries concerning his health, that he was *as fine as silk*, but not half so much beliked by the ladies.—'Phoenixiana,' p. 205.
- 1860 Pleasant draughts they're daily drinking,  
Feeling "*just as fine as silk*."  
*Knicker. Mag.*, lvi. 434 (Oct.).
- 1908 He declared that the sonnet was *finer'n silk*.—*St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Dec.

**Fine-appearing.** Handsome.

- 1879 "She is very *fine-appearing*," said Lydia. Staniford smiled at the countrified phrase.—Howell, 'Lady of the Aroostook,' ii. 59. (N.E.D.)

**Fine-cut.** A kind of tobacco.

- 1854 He chewed a paper of *fine-cut* every day.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 100.

**Finger** (of liquor). A small quantity.

- 1888 "Which is correct, spoonfuls or spoonsful?" "In Denver we say *fingers*." — *Newport Journal*, Feb. 25 (Farmer).

**Fingers and toes.** See quotation.

- 1848 I've been on [the rock] *as often as I've got fingers and toes*. — 'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 146.
- 1888 This phrase is rarely met with; but, forty years after the above quotation, a woman at Whatcom on Puget Sound said to the compiler, "I could have rented that house in the past three months *as often as there's fingers and toes on me*."

**Fip.** A "five-pence," or "fippenny bit."

- 1822 A dispute now commenced between two persons respecting some cents and a "*fip*," which had fallen from his pocket as he rolled in the straw: one asserting that there were two "*fips*," and the other that there was but one.—*Philadelphia Freeman's Journal*, Sept. 5.
- 1824 We have whiskey at "three *fips*" per gallon.—Letter from Cincinnati, *Mass. Yeoman*, March 3.
- 1824 In Philadelphia, every article goes by "*fips*"; so many "*fips*" (about five pennies) a piece, or dozen.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 28 (Boston).
- 1832 He drew [out] rather more dollars, half dollars, levies, and *fips* than his dirty little hand could well hold.—Mrs. Trollope, 'Manners of the Americans,' i. 171.
- 1832 I fell in with one of the curly-headed descendants of Ham, who was willing to pull me over for a couple of *fips*. —E. C. Wines, 'Two Years and a Half in the Navy,' i. 8 (Phila.).
- 1834 His pockets had never felt the weight of a single *fip* which did not somehow or other find its way into the family locker.—*Vermont Free Press*, Oct. 4.
- 1836 We were aroused by a remark from a gentleman at our elbow, who, with a *fip* in his dexter hand, between the thumb and fore-finger, said, "Go, bring something to drink."—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Sept. 5.
- 1837 The name Picayune is the Creole....for what we call a *Fip*.—*Id.*, Feb. 7.
- 1838 He'd give a *fip* to clothe a beggar's shins,  
And cover thus a multitude of sins.  
*Knick. Mag.*, xii. 548 (Dec.).
- 1840 Sim Travers, who had a drinking shed at the lower end of the canal, uttered his paper in *fips*, "Good for a drink." —John P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 172.

**Flip**—*contd.*

- 1849 He had given the gentleman credit for eight dollars and a *flip* in the omnibus.—Mr. Root of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 9 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 203.
- 1855 [The boy had] the tempting reward of a *flip-penny piece* before him.—W. G. Simms, 'Border Beagles,' p. 252.
- 1856 By and by he will give you a *flip* to buy salve for those cuts.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' chap. xviii.
- 1857 "Do you want any meal, ma'am?" "What do you ask for a bushel?" "Ten cents, ma'am, prime." "O, I can get it for a *flip*."—*Oregon Weekly Times*, March 7.
- 1857 Last night, yesterday morning, about two o'clock in the afternoon, before breakfast, a hungry boy forty years old bought a *flip* custard for a levy, and threw it through a brick wall nine feet thick, and jumped over it, and broke his ankle right above his knee, and fell into a dry mill-pond, and was drowned.—*Id.*, Aug. 15.
- 1858 Wise sages of the olden time  
With introverted vision look;  
But ah! a *flip* is not a dime,  
And for mixed "snifters" can't be took.  
*Knick Mag.*, li. 215 (Feb.).

See also **THRIP**.

**Fire out.** To eject; to expel. See *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. viii. 37, 454.

- 1885 If the practice is persisted in, then [the pupils] should be *fired out*.—*Milner (Dak.) Free Press*, April 25. (N.E.D.)
- 1887 [He] says, the next time such a thing occurs, he will *fire* the offender bodily.—*Lisbon (Dak.) Star*, Feb. 11. (N.E.D.)

**Fire-bag.** A bag used by firemen.

- 1769 Some silk, "lately found in a *fire-bag*."—*Advt., Mass. Gazette*, Feb. 2.

**Fire-bird.** The Baltimore oriole.

- 1824 The *fire-bird* streamed by them, with his deep-red plumage.—W. Irving, 'Tales of a Traveller,' p. 436. (N.E.D.)
- 1856 The hollow woods.... Ring shrill with the *fire-bird's* lay.—Bryant, 'Indian Story.' (N.E.D.)
- a.1870 My oriole, my glance of summer fire.—Lowell, 'Under the Willows.'

**Fire-break.** A space cleared to prevent the spread of a fire.

- 1885 Fears are entertained of the safety of the town, and teams are out plowing *fire-breaks* around it.—*Boston Journal*, Sept. 26. (N.E.D.)

**Fire-bug.** A glow-worm.

- 1797 (Allusively.) These may be more properly stiled *Fire Bugs*; they are differently formed from common Bugs, having but two legs, walk erect, carry the illumination near the nose, which is composed of a tube of three inches long, projecting from the mouth, with the fire at the end.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 30.
- a.1872 [The lamp] don't give more light than a *fire-bug*.—J. M. Bailey, 'Folks in Danbury,' p. 46.

**Fire-bug.** An incendiary.

- 1872 —Those chaps that are setting folks on to burn us all up in our beds. Political *fire-bugs* we call 'em up our way.—'Poet at the Breakfast-Table,' chap. i. (N.E.D.)
- 1883 It is believed that there exists an organized band of "*firebugs*."—*Pall Mall Gazette*, Sept. 6. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 The last of the trio of *fire-bugs* arrested last fall was removed to the insane asylum.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 22 (Farmer).
- 1909 It has been decided that yesterday's first fire was not due to the torch of the "*fire-bug*."—*N. Y. Evening Post*, April 15.

**Fire-dog.** An andiron.

- 1792 [He] caught a *fire-dog*, which he threw, [and] knocked down one of the ruffians —*Mass. Spy*, March 1.
- 1840 'Barnaby Rudge.' (N.E.D.)

**Fire-eater.** A swaggerer; a braggadocio; a Captain Bobadil. The Fire-eaters of South Carolina and Georgia precipitated the Civil War.

- 1847 He is a regular *fire-eater*; can hit the ace of hearts, nine times out of ten, at fifteen paces.—Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 205 (Phila.).
- 1852 [One of the newspapers] has called me, I am told, the head "*fire eater*" of my district.—Mr. Jackson of Georgia, House of Repr., March 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 344, App.
- 1858 I tell you, southern men, I am ready to strike hands with *fire-eaters*, and exterminate the race. It is becoming extinct.—Mr. Burlingame of Mass., the same, March 31: *id.*, p. 290, App.
- 1859 With all my opposition to your institution, I can hardly doubt that if....my lot had been cast among you, my opinions might be different, and I might be here, perhaps, as fierce a *fire-eater* as I am now defending against fire.—Mr. Wade of Ohio, U.S. Senate, Dec. 14: *id.*, p. 143.
- 1859 The politicians read them, and their wrathful, *fire-eating* visages relaxed to a broad grin.—Seba Smith, Preface to 'Major Jack Downing's Letters.'
- 1860 [They] had determined to leave all the speaking to the Southern *Fire-Eaters*. — O. J. Victor, 'History of the Southern Rebellion,' i. 65.
- 1860 [There were] several "*Fire-Eaters*," or peremptory secessionists.—*Id.*, i. 66.
- 1863 The newcomer proved to be, as he pleasantly acknowledged, a Southern *Fire-Eater*.—Hawthorne, 'Our Old Home,' i. 55. (N.E.D.)
- 1910 When one has read all that [Mrs. Pryor] and her children endured while the war lasted, one is ready for an end of horrors and sufferings; but there were yet to follow years of extreme hardship and poverty, while Gen. Pryor slowly forced his way into a new career as a lawyer in New York City. It is a record to make one hesitate before saying a light word even of the "*fire-eaters*"—for in the fifties Gen. Pryor was regarded, the country over, as hardly second in that rôle to Yancey himself.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, March 28.

**Fire-grass, Fire-weed.** The *Erechthites hieracifolia*. It is not properly a grass.

1792 The *fire-weed* spontaneously grows on all burnt land. This *fire-weed* is an annual plant, with a succulent stalk and long jagged leaf. It grows to the height of five or six feet. It never vegetates, except on the ashes of burnt wood.—Jeremy Belknap, 'N. Hampshire,' iii. 133-4. (Partly cited, N.E.D.)

1821 Immediately after the fires, a species of grass springs up, sometimes called *fire grass*.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 61.

1857 There were great fields of *fire-weed* (*Epilobium angustifolium*) on all sides, which presented great masses of pink.—H. D. Thoreau, 'The Maine Woods,' p. 262 (1864).

**Fire-hunting.** Hunting at night, with uplifted fire-pans.

1826 The most interesting hunts [in Louisiana] are practised at night, and are called *fire-huntings*. [A description follows.]—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 339.

1845 A Fire-hunt is also described in the *Yale Lit. Mag.*, xi. 89-90.

**Fire-pan.** See quotation.

1853 A "*fire-pan*" is a kind of basket formed of iron hoops or straps, to which a long pole is attached as a handle. It is used in fire-hunting.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 37.

**Fire-sail.** A piece of canvas used by firemen.

1806 Axes, firehooks, *fire-sails*, and ladders.—Act of General Assembly of Massachusetts, March 8.

**Fire-ward.** A director of firemen.

1763 Collectors, wardens, *fire-wards*, and representatives, are regularly chosen.—John Adams, 'Diary' (1850), ii. 144. (N.E.D.)

1787 In some parts of America, and particularly in Boston, there are *fire-wards* appointed by the town....I have known the governor of Massachusetts to be placed by a *fire-ward* in one of the lanes, and he very prudently obeyed with cheerfulness.—'American Museum,' ii. 478.

1800 A notice from "The *Firewards* of the town of Boston" appears in the *Mass. Mercury*, Nov. 18.

**Fish-flake.** A frame for drying fish.

1767 Several Fish Houses, and *Fish Flakes* now fit for Curing Fish.—Advt., *Boston-Gazette*, Jan. 26.

1792 [The codfish are] spread on hurdles composed of brush, and raised on stakes about three or four feet from the ground; these are called *flakes*.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 215.



**Fish-flake**—*contd.*

- 1819 [He was] attending the *fish flakes* at Windmill Point.—*Mass. Spy*, May 26.
- 1844 She turns the fish no more  
That dry on the *flakes* in the sun ;  
No wood she drags to the door,  
Nor water,—her labor is done.  
Celia Thaxter, 'Isle of Shoals,' p. 67 (1873).
- 1844 The white fish of the lakes are transported to the East, and sold even in sight of the *flakes* of our coast.—Mr. Woodbury of New Hampshire in the Senate, Feb. 8 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 154, App.
- 1865 The houses here were surrounded by *fish-flakes*, close up to the sills.—Thoreau, 'Cape Cod,' p. 197. (N.E.D.)

**Fish-scale.** (College slang.)

- 1900 A *fish-scale* is the nickel with which a [Yale] student pays his car-fare.—'Dialect Notes,' ii. 16.

**Fish story.** An improbable tale ; a cock-and-bull story. Examples are added, showing that the latter phrase is not entirely driven out.

- 1819 A *fish story* ! . . . . In consequence of the shoals of white-fish which occupied and choked the channel between Bois Blanc Island and Amherstburgh, the steamboat could not pass.—*St. Louis Enquirer*, Dec. 8.
- 1823 That s "a *fish story*," but mine's a true one.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, Jan. 28.
- 1823 A "*Fish Story*" has frequently been allowed to take precedence of acts calculated to arrest the arm of oppression.—*Howard Gazette*, Boston, Nov. 22.
- 1826 None of your *fish stories* for me ; give me the result of repeated trials ; tell me what you have seen and heard.—*Mass. Spy*, June 21.
- 1831 "A *fish story*" is told in the *Troy* (N.Y.) *Watchman*, Nov. 23.
- 1832 When a sailor hears a *fish story*, his only answer is, "tell that to a marine."—E. C. Wines, 'Two Years and a Half in the Navy,' i. 45.
- 1842 *Fish Story.* A cat fish was recently caught at St. Louis, which upon being opened was found to contain in his maw a silk purse, &c.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, July 22.
- 1844 The Providence Journal is great at *fish stories*.—*Id.*, July 31.
- 1846 An old Franco-Canadian has favored us with perhaps a little the biggest *fish story* of any told to the present day.—Rufus B. Sage, 'Scenes in the Rocky Mountains,' p. 141 (Phila.).
- 1852 We are somewhat credulous ; but the last "*fish story*" recorded below strikes us as improbable.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxix. 291 (March).
- a.1853 It is nothing but a [*fish story*, my incredibly credulous brethren.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 137.



**Fish story—contd.**

- 1853 His *fish story* of the old hunter, who was lynched and came to life again.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 151.
- 1857 Oh! go to grass with your *fish stories*!—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 588 (Dec.).
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- 1795 A long *cock-and-a-bull story* about the Columbianum, [a proposed national college].—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., March 2.
- 1809 [They] never visited a foreign country, but what they told some *cock and bull stories* about their being kings and princes at home.—Washington Irving, 'Hist. of New York,' i. 85 (1812).
- 1830 A terrible *cock and bull story* about their ship having been taken by a pirate.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 195.
- 1836 He told a *cock and bull story* about his having come from Newark.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Dec. 26.
- 1857 A parcel of *cock and bull stories*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 43 (Jan.).

**Fist, make a.** To make a success, good or bad.

- 1834 A chap would *make a blue fist* of takin' a dead aim through double sights, with the butt end of a psalm in his guzzle.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 25.
- 1838 He reckoned he should *make a better fist* at farming than educating.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 46.
- 1841 You *made a poor fist* of this business.—W. G. Simms, 'The Kinsmen,' ii. 24 (Phila.).
- 1880 Mrs. B. is really *making a pretty fist* at a salon.—W. D. Howells, 'The Undiscovered Country,' p. 87. (N.E.D.)

**Fit for fought.** An example of this occurs in Congreve: *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. viii. 204.

- 1747 There were two gentlemen *fit* yesterday, and my mistress was never so diverted in her life.—Tag, in Garrick's 'Miss in her Teens.'
- 1800 Deny, if your please, my lord, that it was for a golden pippin that the three goddesses *fit*.—Sir Terence O'Fay in Maria Edgeworth's 'Absentee,' chap. ii.
- 1821 Dr. Dwight calls *fit* a Cockneyism, 'Travels,' iv. 281. But see the following examples.
- 1825 One day, our Towzle he *fit* a painter.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 41.
- 1835 Any body can get in, if he only *fit* big battles enough. I'd give a year's sellary in a minute, if Mr. Van Buren had ever *fit* a great battle so as to be called a hero.—*Bucks Co. (Pa.) Intelligencer*, Nov. 4.

**Fit for fought—contd.**

- 1839 But though they *fit* and run away,  
They warn't a bit of cowards ;  
They lived to fight another day,  
When lookin' Gin'ral Howe-wards.  
*Havana* (N.Y.) *Republican*, from *Journal of Commerce*, n.d.
- 1839 Here's a going to be one of the peskiest battles that ever was *fit*.—*Chemung* (N.Y.) *Democrat*, April 17.
- 1840 I have never slept more soundly than when I have *fi't* (*sic*) the Mingos.—J. F. Cooper, 'The Pathfinder,' i. 38 (Lond.).
- 1843 I fell to and *fit* as well as I could.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxi. 256 (March).
- 1845 There's a mighty chance of lawyers' lies in the papers [filed in court], but some of it is true. I did strike the old lady, but she *fit* me powerfully first.—Cornelius Mathews, 'A Court Scene in Georgia,' i. 140.
- 1846 We *fit* round and round about the barrels an' boxes 'bout half an hour.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 45.
- 1846 Two fellers *fit* out of the door, down the hill, and into the creek, and there ended it in a quiet way, all alone.—*Id.*, p. 88.
- 1847 We *fit* our way into the city of Mexico.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 275 (1860).
- 1848 The Seminole chiefs, what *fit* us so hard a few years ago.—Major Jones's 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 56.
- 1848 But somehow, wen we'd *fit* an' licked, I ollers found the thanks  
Gut kin' o' lodged afore they come ez low down 'ez the ranks.  
'Biglow Papers,' 1st Series, No. 8.
- 1853 She *fit* against the civility till her straw bonnet was used up like a crushed eggshell.—*Phila. Mercury*, n.d.
- 1855 My grandfather *fit* the British under Begyne [Burgoyne] thar in old Virginny....I had a boy to load my rifle, and while he was doing it I *fit* the Indians with my hatchet.—E. W. Farnham, 'Life in Prairie Land,' pp. 108, 110.
- 1862 They actually *fit* and struggled over the first bucketsful so that every drop of the water was spilled.—*Harper's Weekly*, March 22.
- a.1863 If I live to get through this war, and two candidates are presented for my suffrage, the very first question I mean to ask will be: "Which one of them *fit*?" and I mean always to vote for the man who *fit*. I tell you, those able-bodied men who are sleeping in feather beds to-night, while we are standing here in the rain to guard their precious carcasses, must be content to take back seats when we get home.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' ix. 133 (Richmond, Va.).
- 1869 He hadn't *fit* the Arminians and Socinians to be beat by a tom-turkey.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Old-Town Stories' ('The Minister's Housekeeper').
- 1869 She allers *fit* and flouted her beaux, and the more she *fit* and flouted 'ein, the more they'd be arter her.—*Id.* ('Mis' Elderkin's Pitcher').

**Fit to kill.** At a great rate ; immoderately.

1856 Then she laughed *fit to kill*. I didn't 'spicion p'raps what she was at.—*Knick Mag.*, xlviii. 433 (Oct.).

1862 'Twas Concord Bridge a talkin' off *to kill*  
With the Stone Spike thet's druv thru Bunker's Hill.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 2.

1908 I drove right on, and Abram jest set back and laughed *fit to kill*.—'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 165.

**Fits, to give one.** To scold, to abuse, to beat.

1845 We know a mother who never allows a tailor to come near her children,—she is afraid he will "*give 'em fits*."—*St. Louis Reveille*, July 28.

a.1848 Either flax out your opponent, or *give nature special fits* in the undertaking.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 54.

1851 Our gallant Taylor is no fool,  
Semper paratus—ever cool ;  
He's *given the Mexicans*, to their pain,  
Such charming *fits*,—and will again.  
*Knick. Mag.*, xxxvii. 102 (Jan.).

1862 Ez long 'z he *gives the Hessians fits*, committees can't make bother.—'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.

1866 It's good Buncombe to have a scapegoat. Mr. Buncombe can go home and say, Didn't I *give them . . . Commissioners fits*?—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 69.

1872 I rather guess as how the old man will *give particular fits* to our folks to-day.—Edward Eggleston, 'Hoosier School-master,' p. 66. (N.E.D.)

**Fix.** A difficulty ; a dilemma ; a condition.

1833 I've seed race paths in a worse *fix* than this.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 190. (For a fuller quotation, see PRIMING.)

1833 When a man has head religion, he is in a bad *fix* to die,—cut off his head, and away goes his body and soul to the devil.—*Id.*, p. 43.

1834 I could not get my hands in no sort of a comfortable *fix*.—*Vermont Free Press*, Dec. 6.

1836 Tables and settees are put into a sleeping *fix* in the twinkling of a bedpost.—'Pleasant Peregrinations,' p. 50 (Phila.).

1839 The Americans are never at a loss when they are in a *fix*.—Marryat, 'Diary in America,' ii. 166. (N.E.D.)

1842 The imbecility of those who had brought the Government into its present *fix*.—Mr. Marshall of Kentucky in the House of Representatives, March 17 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 330.

1847 The horrid American *fix* into which a man is betrayed.—Do Quincey, 'Third Paper on Sir W. Hamilton.'

1852 I'll be delighted to be in your company in any *fix* (*i.e.*, costume).—C. H. Wiley, 'Life in the South,' p. 126 (Phila.).

1861 According to the *Independent*, published at Belton, Tex., Texas and Jeff [Davis] are in a *fix*.—*Oregon Argus*, July 20.

**Fix.** To arrange, to place, to set right, to mend, to dress, to settle : a word of wide import.

- 1708 Mr. Makemie of Virginia, in his will dated April 27th, bequeathed to Mr. Jedediah Andrews his "black camlet coat, and [his] new cane, bought and *fixed* at Boston."—W. H. Foote, 'Sketches of Virginia,' p. 57 (1850).
- 1769 We'd *fix* things directly.—Bickerstaff. (N.E.D.)
- 1799 I *fixed* my hat a little better on my head, and then advanced boldly into the tavern.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Sept. 11.
- 1800 Have *fix'd* Randolph,—wish the other house would *fix* Mason.—*Id.*, April 8.
- 1804 Our meeting-houses should be *fix'd*  
For men and women to be mix'd,  
To take their pleasure, drink, and dance.  
*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 8.  
[So it seems the sexes sat separately.]
- 1805 His wife observed that the sticks were too big ; he said he would *fix* them.—*Id.*, March 6.
- 1820 She replied that she had rather go to Hell than to Church, without having her hair *fixed* to please her.—*Id.*, Feb. 16.
- 1825 Wait a minute or so. Let me git *fixt* first.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 374.
- 1830 [He] went to drinking whiskey in large quantities, which *fixed* him for slow travelling.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 1.
- 1832 Another slave in the house [at Baltimore] told us that she liked religion right well, but that she never took fits in it, because she was always *fixed* in her best when she went to chapel, and she did not like to have all her best clothes broke up.—Mrs. Trollope, 'Manners of the Americans,' i. 296.
- 1833 There was a right smart chance of sickness when she came to the settlement,—she had abundance to do, and she flew round among the folks mighty peart, I tell you. The way she *fixed* 'em was the right way.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 88 (Phila.).
- 1833 She said she'd "*fix* me," and began to pin my tatters together.—*American Monthly Mag.*, i. 395 (Aug.).
- 1835 I said they had *fixed* [Andrew Jackson] just where he had *fixed* himself, that was, before the Constitution.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 64 (Phila.).
- 1835 Not until after two hours of *fixing* and *unfixing* was I decently equipped.—'Harvardiana,' i. 80.
- 1836 If he had stolen the pennies from his grandmother's eyes in Louisiana, the people in Texas would have nothing to do with that affair, nohow they could *fix* it.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 125 (Phila.).
- 1842 The lady and the midshipman had gotten comfortably *fixed* in the boarding-house.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, April 19.
- 1843 That *fixes* the tavern-keepers and the tipplers.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 123.

**Fix**—*contd.*

- 1843 It takes days with her now to *fix* and *unfix* a notion.—*Id.*, p. 246.
- 1843 You'll wait till he's had his wound *fixed*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 116.
- 1852 What business had your proof-reader to *fix* my Latin?—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 277 (Sept.).
- 1856 Go ahead; I can hear you and *fix* the fire too.—*Id.*, xlvii. 270 (March).
- 1856 Well, Miss Lucy, says I, only point me out your traps, and I'll send them up to the hotel, and *fix you off* all as square as a box.—*Id.*, xlvii. 617 (June).
- 1857 I swore a big oath to myself, that I'd *fix* that cussed varmint [a coon] in less nor a week.—*Id.*, xlix. 68 (Jan.).
- 1870 Polygamy would be all right [said a young Mormon], if they only wouldn't pull hair. But the women will pull hair *anyway you fix it*.—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 225 (Phila. &c.).

**Fix one's flint.** To settle one's business.

- 1837 I thought I had *fixed your flint* yesterday.—*Knick. Mag.*, ix. 363 (April).
- 1840 Their manners are rude; . . . they want *their flints fixed* for 'em.—Haliburton, 'The Clockmaker,' iii. xii. (N.E.D.)
- 1843 Take it easy, Sam, says I; *your flint is fixed*.—'Sam Slick in England,' chap. ii. (Bartlett).
- 1843 Here's a gentleman *whose flint wants fixing*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxii. 136 (Aug.).
- 1847 Stranger, if you don't shet your mouth a little closer than a Gulf clam, I'll *fix your flint* in short order.—Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 197 (Phila.).

**Fixed fact.** A matter admitting of no discussion.

- 1842 The gentleman, in derision of the "*fixed fact*," argued that there was no moral power nor spirit of resistance in the people.—Mr. Wise of Va., House of Repr., Dec. 29: *Cong. Globe*, p. 97.
- 1847 That the present war had been commenced by the President was, to use a very significant phrase once introduced here in debate, "*a fixed fact*."—Mr. Davis of Ky., the same, Feb. 3: *id.*, p. 308, App.
- 1847 That he did dispose of a large quantity of oil, and afterwards desert from the vessel, are *fixed facts*.—*Boston Post*, June (Bartlett).
- 1849 That this country [of Texas] would never be surrendered to Mexico, might be put down as "*a fixed fact*."—Mr. Vinton of Ohio, House of Repr., Feb. 19: *Cong. Globe*, p. 556.
- 1850 We do not demand that you shall establish slavery in the territories. I have endeavored to show that you have no power to do so. Slavery is a "*fixed fact*" in your system.—Mr. Toombs of Georgia, the same, Feb. 27: *id.*, p. 199, App.

**Fixed fact**—*contd.*

- 1851 I submit it as a *fixed fact* that there is scarcely one out of every score, &c.—A. Oakey Hall, 'The Manhattaner in New Orleans,' p. 163.
- 1857 By Saturday evening Abrams's idea was embodied. It was a "*fixed fact*" in the shape of the Island Church.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, l. 291 (Sept.).
- 1861 Secession, said he, was a *fixed fact*, and that the constitutional power did not exist to coerce a State [was] incontestable.—Orville J. Victor, 'History of the Southern Rebellion,' i. 186.
- 1866 This invention of the Selectmen became a "*fixed fact*" at the west end of the meeting-house.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 12.

**Fixings.** Contrivances, adjuncts, accessories, trimmings, knicknacks. See also CHICKEN FIXINGS.

- 1820 These little *fixens* (said Glass) make a man feel right peart, when he is three or four hundred miles from any body or any place, and alone among the painters and wild varments.—Hall's 'Letters from the West,' p. 304. [The "little fixens" were knife, flint, and steel.]
- 1825 The veteran [Missouri] trapper was furnished with such other appliances, or *fixens*, as he would term them, as put him in plight again to take the field.—*New Hampshire Patriot*, Concord, May 23.
- 1827 Your *fixen* seem none of the best for such a calling.—J. F. Cooper, 'The Prairie,' i. 30. (N.E.D.)
- 1833 I spose may be you think I never seed a coach? Well, it's a free country, and every man has a right to think what he pleases; but I reckon I've saw as many of them are *fixens* as any other man. I was raised in Tennessee. I saw General Jackson once, riding in the elegantest carriage that ever mortal man sot eyes on, with glass windows to it like a house, and sort o' silk curtings.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 185.
- 1839 We got our "*fixens*," and off we hied to the prairie, and the way the feathers flew was a caution.—John Plumbe, 'Sketches in Iowa,' &c., p. 56 (St. Louis).
- 1842 Our friends who love oysters and sparkling rosy wine, and other little "*fixens*" in the eating way, will do well to drop in at the Bath House Refectory.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Jan. 22.
- 1842 He sends his housekeeper out for a beefsteak, or some other *fixins* for breakfast.—*Id.*, Feb. 26.
- 1842 The people of the sulphur and smoke city [Pittsburgh] are to feed him [Charles Dickens] on a mammoth ox, kept for his especial use, presuming that he is fond of "a streak of fat and a streak of lean," and other "*fixens*" in the good eating way.—*Id.*, April 2.
- 1842 People can't afford to purchase the rich golden and rosy beefsteaks, as formerly. They keep soul and body together with greens and onions, shad, and such like *fixins*.—*Id.*, April 16.

**Fixings—contd.**

- 1843 Our travelling "*fixins*" excited some interest.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 29.
- 1845 Our ladies are sadly in want of the little *fixins* made by the milliners.—Letter to the *Bangor Mercury*, n.d.
- 1846 A large part of [the foreign wool] is manufactured into broadcloths, cassimeres, and all sorts of *fixins*, that the Yankees know how to make.—Mr. Gordon of New York, House of Repr., June 26: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1034.
- 1847 The other half of the country is covered with cane, palmetto, and other *fixins*.—'A Swim for a Deer,' p. 120 (Phila.).
- a.1848 A new gown begets a desire for a new bonnet; and these together form the foundation for a host of expensive *fixings* and foolish flipperjigs.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 187.
- 1848 [He] makes a heap of money by selling Yankee made Ingin *fixins*, sich as moccasins, bead-bags, card-cases, and a heap of fancy articles, sich as the Ingins themselves never dreamed of makin'.—Major Jones's 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 167.
- 1850 The maid is running up and down stairs, with hot water and "*fixings*."—D. G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' i. 163 (1852).
- 1852 Those horned *fixings*, you shall see, I bought to break prairie.—*Frontier Guardian*, May 6.
- 1852 [A London penny loaf] is not all bread, but it is a mixture, a combination of other *fixings*.—H. C. Kimball at the Mormon Tabernacle, Nov. 14: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 354.
- 1853 All sorts of *lady-fixins* thrill my feelings, as they'd orter,  
But little gaiter-boots are death, and nothing shorter.  
*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, June 22.
- 1854 [They] have prepared a roasted ox down at Gillett's Corners, with all the *fixin's*.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 108.
- 1855 "Open the *fixin*," says he, pointing to a cupboard;  
"there you'll find the tools as 'll do it slick."—*Oregon Weekly Times*, July 21.
- 1856 Pretty girl there in the black *fixings*, and white arrangements, with blue doings.—*Knickerbocker*, xlvii. 406 (April).
- 1857 He stood in amazement at the lever beam, the chimneys, and the various "*fixins*" [of the boat].—*San Francisco Call*, Jan. 20.
- 1857 The printers acknowledge the welcome present of a dray-load of nice *fixings* with the above. — Foot-note to a wedding notice, *Oregon Weekly Times*, Aug. 1.
- 1857 We have our Spanish *fixings*,—a pair of spurs that will weigh seven pounds, ringing and ginging as though all hell was coming. Why don't you put them away?—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 2: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 137.



**Fixings—contd.**

- 1861 You know what our Minister said when he saw a nigger at some court in Europe, and was asked what he thought of him. Well, I guess, said he, if you take off his *fixings*, he may be worth \$1,000 down.—W. H. Russell, 'Diary,' March 29.

[This anecdote was told, with slight variations, by Mr. Garrett Davis of Ky., U.S. Senate, April 24, 1862: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1806/3. The Minister was Mr. John Young Mason of Va. (1799–1859).]

- 1907 In November the compiler saw "MALE FIXINGS" prominently advertised on a store near the Post Office at St. Louis, Missouri.

**Fizzle, Fizzle out.** To fail, particularly in a class recitation.  
**FIZZLE**, a failure.

- 1847 My dignity is outraged at beholding those who *fizzle* and flunk in my presence tower above me.—*Yale Banger*, Oct. 22. (N.E.D.)
- 1849 To *fizzle* is defined as "To rise with modest reluctance, to hesitate often, to decline finally: generally to misunderstand the question."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 144.
- 1852 Awaiting the sure Nemesis of a *fizzle* in esse, and a flunk in posse.—*Id.*, xvii. 141.
- 1852 What complacent *fizzles*, what unmitigated flunks, are reserved for rainy mornings.—*Id.*, xvii. 342.
- 1854 The Steilacoom gold excitement has entirely *fizzled out*.—*Olympia* (W.T.) *Pioneer*, April 15.
- 1857 It is a lie, and it all *fizzles out*.—John Taylor at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 9: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 118.
- 1866 Blamed if every giggle I tried to make didn't *fizzle out* into a regular whine.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 43.
- 1908 The election of Taft was discounted a month before election day, but the Socialist disappointment, the Prohibition check, and the Independence Party *fizzle* are still subjects for interested speculation.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Dec. 14.

**Flake.** See FISH FLAKE.

**Flank.** To evade military duty; also to capture, to plunder in a small way.

- 1866 They *flanked me* in double quick, and I was constrained to depart, for fear of being a desolated victim of extortion.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 32.
- 1867 They would lead the horses out, take the greenbacks from the prisoners, and when near their home would *flank out* with a horse, and never come up, &c.—J. M. Crawford, 'Mosby and his Men,' p. 295.
- 1872 When the men wished to escape the attention of pickets and guards by slipping past them, they said they *flanked* them; drill and detail and every irksome duty was *flanked*, when it could be avoided by some cunning trick.—De Vere. (N.E.D.)



**Flank**—*contd.*

- 1879 The Government never made anything by employing these "rebels," as they invariably "*flanked*" more than they received as pay.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' vii. 394 (Richmond, Va.).

**Flanker.** See quotation.

- 1867 [In Andersonville prison] a thief was termed a *flanker*, or a *half-shave*. . . . Where a thief had the boldness to steal in open daylight, and by a dash, grab, and run to get off with his booty, he was termed a raider, which was considered one grade above the sneaking *flanker*.—W. L. Goss, 'A Soldier's Story,' p. 102 (Boston).

**Flannel cake.** A soft thin cake usually eaten with molasses.

- 1792 Naples biscuits, crackers, buns, and *flannel-cakes*.—'Munchausen,' p. 131. (N.E.D.)
- 1847 A very delicate species of food which I tasted then for the first time, called *flannel cakes*.—'Tom Pepper,' i. 112.

**Flapdoodle.** Empty talk. Marryat (1833) has "to feed fools on flapdoodle." N.E.D.

- 1862 [McMahon utters] *flap-doodle* for the nourishment of the Richmond mind.—*N. Y. Tribune*, Jan. 20 (Bartlett).
- 1884 A speech all full of tears and *flapdoodle*.—Mark Twain, 'Huckleberry Finn,' chap. xxv. (N.E.D.)

**Flapjack.** A pancake. 1600: now dial. and U.S. (N.E.D.)

- 1789 Dainties of all sorts, too, are here,  
Enough to fill our stays and knapsacks,  
Cream, cake, and cheese, delicious cheer,  
Pies, custards, cranb'ry tarts, and *flapjacks*.  
*Mass. Spy*, March 5.
- 1826 The planet [in my dream] rolled over my carcase, and left it a *slap-jack*.—*Boston Monthly Mag.*, July.
- 1827 [With the Yankee] fritters are pancakes, and pancakes are *flapjacks*.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 28: from the *Berkshire American*.
- 1854 "[I] can give you mush, souse, *slapjacks*, briled pork," continued Bulliphant.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 147.

**Flare.** To open out. The N.E.D. gives a nautical reference, 1644.

- 1834 Finally [the vault] *flares* upward, so that the edges of the arch lose themselves in the projecting face of the cliff.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' ii. 246 (Lond., 1835).

**Flat.** See quotations.

- 1841 *Flat*. Without interest, in brokers' slang.—*N. Y. Standard*, Jan.
- 1870 Stock can almost always be obtained by borrowers, either *flat*, i.e. with no interest on either side, or with interest at market rates for the money advanced.—James K. Medbery, 'Men and Mysteries of Wall Street,' p. 61 (Boston).

**Flat.** A woman's hat with a very wide rim.

1821 An entire *flat* of Leghorn is extended over a small body like the shade of a spreading oak over a mushroom.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 17.

1824 A modern Leghorn *flat* on the head of an ebon beauty.—*The Microscope*, Albany, Feb. 28.

1824 The bill proposed a duty upon all Leghorn hats, *flats*, or bonnets, or the grass braids or *flats* of which they are made.—*Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette*, May 28.

1855 A good-looking young squaw, who wore a large "*flat*," to save her complexion.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlv. 566 (June).

**Flat, Flat-boat.** A scow formerly used on rivers.

1782 A small *Flat*, or Scow, with one end broke.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Sept. 10.

1784 For a year past [he] hath worked chiefly in a *wood-flat*.—Runaway advt., *id.*, June 29.

1788 The savages had in their possession a *flat*, in which eight or ten of them gave chase to the French gentleman.—*Kentucky Gazette*, April 4.

1801 Went down the Mississippi, Jan. 1 to June 30, 1801, 440 *flat boats*, 26 keel boats, and 7 large canoes.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 25.

1820 "A Well Finished *Flat*, 42 feet long, 8½ feet wide, 2 feet 2 inches high," advertised for sale by F. W. Maurer, *Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, June 2.

1823 We crossed the Wateree river, in the stage, on a *flat*.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 54 (Lond.).

1829 The captain had housed his all in an ark, called in our Western language a *flat-boat*. [Here the boat is fully described.] . . . The plunder was stowed in the capacious inside. Equally broad at the bow and the stern, it was but natural that these unique crafts went by the name of broad-horns.—Shields, 'Life of S. S. Prentiss,' p. 31 (1884).

1837 Harriet Martineau. (N.E.D.)

**Flat-car.** A railroad car consisting of a floor on wheels.

1881 Demolishing a couple of *flat-cars*.—*Chicago Times*, June 18. (N.E.D.)

**Flat-footed.** Positive and uncompromising.

1846 Mr. Pickens has come out *flat-footed* for the Administration, a real red-hot Democrat, dyed in the wool.—*N.Y. Herald*, June 30 (Bartlett).

1854 A "*Flat-footed*" Candidate for Justice of the Peace comes out in the following address: . . . I stand *flat-footed*, square-toed, hump-shouldered, upon the platform of free rights and true republicanism.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xliii. 439 (April).

1858 His Herculean frame, and bold, *flat-footed* way of saying things, had impressed his neighbors.—*Harper's Mag.*, Sept. (Bartlett).

**Flax.** Humbug. Rarely met with.

1857 "You say that the bet you tell us of was all *flax*?" "Nothin' but *flax*." "What do you mean?" "I mean it was just vamped up for fun."—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 127.

**Flax out.** To wear out, to vanquish.

a.1848 Either *flax out* your opponent, or give nature special fits in the undertaking.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 54.

1866 I think *to flax* for *to beat* [is American].—Lowell, Introd. to 'Biglow Papers.' (N.E.D.)

1903 'Dialect Notes,' ii. 351, quotes *flaxed out* as an Ohio term for *worn out*.

**Fleshy.** More or less corpulent. Used by Chaucer. (N.E.D.)

1788 To be *fleshy* in their bodies, and ruddy in their cheeks, is their greatest dread.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 11.

1789 Ran away, a Mulatto Man.... He is a likely, sensible, and plausible fellow, *fleshy* and well made.—*Maryland Journal*, Oct. 16.

1807 A large, *fleshy*, rugged, strong, active child.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 26.

1821 The English are more frequently *fleshy* [than the New England people].—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 463.

1824 Mack is a tall *fleshy* man, of ferocious aspect.—*Mass. Spy*, April 28: from the *Berkshire Star*.

1836 A highly respectable and very *fleshy* old lady.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Oct. 4.

1837 "*The Fleshy One*" is the subject of one of J. C. Neal's 'Charcoal Sketches.'

1838 Nowhere in the West have I seen a sleeker, *fleshier*, happier-looking set of mortals than the blacks of these old [French villages on the Mississippi].... Where will you search for a *fleshier*, sleeker, swarthier-looking race than these French villagers?—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 169, 182.

1840 Mrs. Ferret is what we call a *fleshy* or lusty woman; she weighed two hundred and twelve, in Neal Hopper's new scale at the mill.—John P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 110.

1848 There stood Deacon Morris, a short, broad, grave, and *fleshy* man of fifty, beneath the pulpit, giving out the hymn.—Dr. Daniel Drake, 'Pioneer Life in Kentucky,' p. 193 (1870).

1856 A *fleshy* gentleman had received a copy of the Pictorial.—'Phoenixiana,' p. 135.

1856 She was clear out o' breath, for she's quite a *fleshy* woman.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 26.

1857 I am a large man, and my cousin Abimeleck calls me *fleshy*.—*Harper's Weekly*, Aug. 22.

1858 Mrs. Jones, who is a very *fleshy* woman, undulated and shook like a mighty jelly.—Mary Ann's Wedding, in *Oregon Weekly Times*, Oct. 30.

1867 He is much *fleshier* than while at Riley.—Letter of Gen. Custer, April 10: Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 554.

**Flinders** (in fig. sense). Fragments.

1786 'Twill make her poor auld heart....In *flinders* flee.—Burns, 'On a Scotch Bard.' (N.E.D.)

1848 [He] had riddled to *flinders* their young locofoco representative.—Mr. McLane of Maryland, House of Repr., March 1: *Cong. Globe*, p. 409.

1878 Parson Cushing could knock that air [discourse] all to *flinders*.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Poganuc People,' p. 27. (N.E.D.)

**Flip**. Strong liquor, warmed up. See quot. 1820. The word occurs in Congreve, 1695, and in the British Apollo, 1709: N.E.D.

1774 We by our labour pay a much larger duty for Wine, Punch, and *Flip* for our Husbands, than for Tea for ourselves.—*Boston Evening Post*, Feb. 7.

1785 The Doctor rubbed his hands, took a draught of *flip*, smacked his chops, and felt my pulse.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 11.

1776 While briskly to each patriot lip  
Walks eager round the inspiring *flip*.

John Trumbull, 'McFingal,' iii. 21–22.

1776 In Canto IV. he speaks of "the mob *be flipped* at taverns."

1801 Punch and politics, *flip* and religion, tod and ministers, make one general compound, and share largely in their malevolent jargon.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 30.

1820 The note to the Hartford edition of Trumbull's 'McFingal,' Canto III., defines flip as "a liquor composed of beer, rum, and sugar: the common treat at that time in the country towns of New England."

1835 The king made me a good stiff mug of *flip*, and we drank together like good friends.—*Vermont Free Press*, Jan. 17.

1836 This is a temperance town, or the proposed stake would probably have been *flip* or blackstrap.—*Boston Pearl*, Feb. 13.

1836 At night ere you slip into bed you may sip a can of good *flip*.—Geo. Cruikshank, 'Comic Almanack,' Jan.

1878 Polly she nursed him up with a mug of *flip* and a lot o' 'lection cake till he was as pleasant as a young rooster.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Cal Culver and the Devil,' *Harper's Mag.* lvii. 581.

**Flitters**. Tatters. 1620, 1660, N.E.D.

1789 Besides tearing your character to *flitters*, he marks you out for the odium of the public as an enemy to the liberty of the press.—Paper attributed to Franklin, 'American Museum,' vi. 297.

1829 [The bull had broken] the most splendid mirror then in New England all to *flitters*.—*Mass. Spy*, June 10: from the *Boston Philanthropist*.

**Float** (in mining). See quotation.

1812 That kind of ore called *floats*, being formed in large, irregular, but unconnected masses....The *floats* have no tiif, and are the most easily melted.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Views of Louisiana,' p. 148. (Partly cited, N.E.D.)

**Float.** A certificate preliminary to a purchase of government land.

1837 Whenever a good tract of land is ready for sale, [they] cover it over with their *floats* (warrants of the required habitation) and thus put down competition.—H. Martineau, 'Society in America,' ii. 93. (N.E.D.)

1840 Mr. Alford of Georgia spoke of the result in giving the settler who happened to have set down on [a] section a *float* to the same amount.—House of Representatives, May 27 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 124.

1841 Mr. King of Alabama said that the proposed pre-emption bill was going back too much to the old system of "*floats*," under which frauds innumerable had been perpetrated.—U.S. Senate, Jan. 20 : *id.*, p. 194, App.

**Floater.** An uncertain, fluctuating voter.

1883 "How many of them *floaters*?" i.e. merchantable voters—continued [he].—H. George, 'N. Am. Review,' p. 203. (N.E.D.)

1888 Expressions indicating the intention to buy the Indiana "*floaters*."—*Pall Mall Gazette*, Nov. 5. (N.E.D.)

**Floater.** A vagrant. N.E.D., 1883.

1878 [He] failed, lost hope, and sank into a "*floater*."—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 45.

**Floating Island.** A kind of custard.

1771 At dinner we had a *floating island*.—Franklin, 'Works' (1887), iv. 415. (N.E.D.)

α.1821 I have been bothered to death with the din of new carpets, new sideboards, new dresses, *floating islands*, obelisks, and whip-syllabubs.—*Connecticut Herald*: Buckingham, 'Miscellanies,' p. 65 (1822).

1860 The marvellous *floating island*.—O. W. Holmes, 'Elsie Venner' (1891), p. 110. (N.E.D.)

**Flood-wood.** Drift-wood on a river.

1822 There are two short carrying places in this distance, occasioned by *flood-wood*—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 6.

1839 The major part of the men were what they call here *flood-wood*, that is, of all sizes and heights.—Marryat, 'Diary in America,' i. 229. (N.E.D.)

1860 I dreamed that there was an awful flood, and that the *flood-wood* had stopped up the stream—H. C. Kimball at the Mormon Tabernacle, Oct. 6 : 'Journal of Discourses,' viii. 251.

**Floor.** The right to speak : in such phrases as to get, to have, to yield "the floor." Also, generally, "the floor of Congress." The phrase is chiefly American, though it was used by Pitt in 1806. (N.E.D.)

1774 He came upon *the floor*, and asked a member, "What state are you now in?"—J. Q. Adams, 'Fam. Letters' (1876), p. 12. (N.E.D.)



**Floor**—*contd.*

- 1860 I doubted it on *the floor of the Senate*, when I was a member of that body. Mr. Rhett in the South Carolina Convention, Dec.—*Id.*, i. 213.
- 1861 Prior to his use of *the floor*, Thompson (Dem.) of New Jersey re-introduced the N.J. State Resolutions. — *Id.*, i. 356.
- 1888 After a half hour's recess, Mr. Glover *took the floor*.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, March 11 (Farmer).

**Floor-walker.** A shop-walker.

- 1884 [They] stationed their *floor-walkers* at the place appointed by the Philadelphia agent.—*Milner (Dak.) Teller*, July 30. (N.E.D.)

**Floreat.** A dollar (?). See *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. xii. 11.

- 1791 [Make] a genteel donation; let it be at least a quarter *floreat*.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 3.

**Flour.** To turn into flour. Webster, 1828. N.E.D.

- 1844 A farmer raises his crop of wheat, and sells it at the market price; it is *floured*, taken to New York, &c.—Mr. Rathbun of N.Y., House of Repr., May 7: *Cong. Globe*, p. 440, App.
- 1857 I should *flour* my wheat, and cache it; and perhaps I shall lay some of it by in the wheat; but I shall *flour* it chiefly.—H. C. Kimball at the Mormon Tabernacle, Nov. 22: 'Journal of Discourses,' vi. 66.
- 1857 I am going to collect all the wheat I can, *flour* it, and put it in good dry boxes.—The same, Nov. 29: *id.*, vi. 103.

**Flowage.** Amount of flow. Worcester's Dict., 1846, N.E.D.

- 1830 The *flowage*, which would be occasioned by a dam to turn the water into the Feeder.—Award of County Commissioners, *Mass. Spy*, Feb. 3.

**Flower-pot Judges.** See quotation.

- 1856 Mr. Stowder was a Pennsylvania judge, one of that description known in Vermont and other places as "*Flower-Pot Judges*," as associate judges are there called to distinguish them from law judges.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlviii. 287 (Sept.).

**Flume.** A channel, natural or artificial, in which water flows rapidly.

- 1792 [There is one fall] which is called *the flume*, and is situate between the townships of Rochester and Lebanon. The *flume* is about four rods in length, and its breadth is various.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 62-3.
- 1818 [Mr. B., while repairing] the *flume* of a mill, was suddenly swept off, together with the *flume*, by a large body of ice.—*Mass. Spy*, March 11.
- 1821 We passed a brook, known by the name of *the Flume*, from its strong resemblance to that object, exhibited by the channel which it has worn for a considerable length in a bed of rocks.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' ii. 148.
- 1878 The congealed floods are loosed, and fill the high *flume* with a raging torrent.—J. H. Beadle. 'Western Wilds.' p. 154.



**Flume, up the.** See UP THE FLUME.

**Flunk.** A worse failure than a Fizzle. To flunk is to fail completely, and he who thus fails is a flunkey. College slang. See examples 1846-54 in B. H. Hall's 'College Words.'

1843 That day poor F. was *flunked*, and was never again reinstated in the good graces of our officer.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 61.

1846 *Yale Banger*. (N.E.D.)

1849 To *flunk*: defined as "To decline peremptorily, and then to whisper, I had it all, except that confounded little place."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 144.

1851 The Sabbath dawns upon the poor student, burdened with the thought of the lesson or *flunk* of the morrow morning.—*Yale Tomahawk*, Feb.

1852 Awaiting the sure Nemesis of a fizzle in esse, and a *flunk* in posse.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xvii. 141.

1852 What complacent fizzles, what unmitigated *flunks*, are reserved for rainy mornings.—*Id.*, xvii. 342.

1854 I am a college pony, Coming from a Junior's room ;  
The ungrateful wretch has cast me Forth to wander in the  
gloom ;  
I bore him safe through Horace, Saved him from the  
*flunkey's* doom. *Id.*, xx. 76.

1888 All the boys done bully, but Corporal Johnson he *flinked*. The boys don't think that a man that would *flink* that way ought to have corporal's straps. [This is perhaps a variant of *flinch*.]—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 680.

**Flunk out.** To expire ; to go out like a candle.

1823 We must have at least as many subscribers as there are students in the college, or *flunk out*.—*The Crayon* (Yale), Bartlett.

**Flurry.** The death-struggle of a whale.

1823 He's going into his *flurry*.—J. F. Cooper, 'Pilot,' chap. xvii. (N.E.D.)

1849 Mr. Giddings said it was stated by whalers that when a death-blow was given to those leviathans, . . . they became dangerous. . . . These expiring convulsions were called the *flurries*.—House of Repr., Dec. 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 83.

**Flurry** (of snow). A short, gusty downfall. Webster, 1828, N.E.D.

1833 We had two *flurries* on successive days.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 39 (Lond., 1835).

1836 Occasional *flurries* of snow.—W. Irving, 'Astoria,' iv. 91. (N.E.D.)



**Fly off the handle.** To go off in a great rage ; sometimes, to die.

1825 Yah ! how [the Indians] pulled foot, when they seed us comin'. Most *off the handle*, some of the tribe, I guess.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 107

1833 Ant Keziah was in such a pucker to have everything nice, I didn't know but she would *fly off the handle*.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 216 (1860).

1833 See LIMPSY.

1843-4 He *flies right off the handle* for nothing.—Haliburton, 'The Attaché' (Farmer).

a.1854 Flying into a passion is one thing ; *flying off the handle* is another.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 252.

1862 Fer grow'd-up folks like us 't would be a scandale,  
When we git sarsed, to *fly right off the handle*.

'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 2.

1888 "She is liable to *fly off the handle*," remarked Amy. "Yes," replied Mildred, "I too have observed her tendency to disassociate herself from the hilt with winged celerity."—*Pittsburg Chronicle*, n.d. (Farmer).

**Fly, on the.** Before the ball touches the ground.

1872 Catching a ball *on the fly*.—'Poet at the Breakfast-Table,' chap. v. (N.E.D.)

1874 Ketchum....was caught *on the fly*.—Chadwick, 'Base Ball,' p. 41. (N.E.D.)

**Fly round.** To bestir oneself.

1833 She *flew around* among the folks mighty peart.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 88. (For a fuller citation see FIX, v.)

1840 Come, gals, *fly round*, and let's get Mrs. C. some supper.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 13.

1851 Old 'ooman, *fly round*, git somethin' for the Squire and Dick to eat.—'Widow Rugby's Husband,' p. 44. (N.E.D.)

1856 *Fly round* and change plates.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' p. 167 (Bartlett).

1871 He *flew round* like a parched pea on a shovel.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Oldtown Fireside Stories,' p. 63. (N.E.D.)

**Flyer.** A small venture in stocks, on the chance of a rise.

1870 Members spoke frankly of their "neat turns" and "*flyers*."—James K. Medbory, 'Men and Mysteries of Wall Street,' p. 111 (Boston).

1886 [He looked] to see how much he had already made on his *flyer*.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, Aug. 26. (N.E.D.)

1888 The temptation to take a *flyer* in the markets.—*New Princeton Review*, v. 328. (N.E.D.)

**Fly-flapper.** A piece of feminine head-dress.

1798 Their pretty faces are either obscured by a black or white *fly-flapper*, or wholly hidden by their poking bonnets, unless you directly face them, and close by too.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 5.

**Fly-time.** The season when flies annoy cattle.

- 1706 Their constant course all *Flie-time*.—Howlett, 'Angler's Sure Guide,' p. 86. (N.E.D.)  
 1757 In teizing *fly-time*.—Dyer's 'Fleece,' i. 366. (N.E.D.)

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- 1805 [They are] called "Buffaloe beats," because supposed to be occasioned by the resort of those animals thither in *fly-time*.—Thaddeus M. Harris, 'State of Ohio,' p. 179.  
 1846 Arter I'd gone to bed I heern him a thrashin round like a short-tailed Bull in *fli-time*.—'Biglow Papers,' 1st Series, No. 1.  
 1850 Like a big bull in a small pastur' in the worst of *fly-time*.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 95.  
 1851 He was er cuttin up shines worse nor er bob-tail bull in *fly-time*.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 72.  
 1853 A horse in *fly-time* without a tail! The case was worse than that of the cow.—'Life Scenes,' p. 29.  
 1855 I sweated like a bull in *fly-time*.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' p. 442 (N.Y.).  
 1858 The bull had no provision for *fly-time*.—*Knick. Mag.*, li. 541 (May).

**Fog-cutter.** The same as an ANTI-FOGMATIC.

- 1833 They take a *fog-cutter*, eat breakfast, and Slim returns to the charge.—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' p. 157 (N.Y.).  
 1835 [He recommended] the internal application of a double *fog-cutter*.—D. P. Thompson, 'Adventures of Timothy Peacock,' p. 150.

**Folks.** Respectable people in general.

- 1840 It's a rattle snake; the Indians call them massisangas (Massasaugas), and so *folks* calls 'em so too.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 33.  
 1844 There was considerable earthenware and silver tea-spoons, and it was evident they had lived like *folks*.—Miss Sedgwick, 'Tales,' p. 200 (N.Y.).  
 1867 "Why, where in thunder was his horns and tail?"  
 "They're only worn by some old-fashioned pokes;  
 They mostly aim at looking just like *folks*."  
 Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story.'

**Folksy.** Companionable. A provincial word.

- 1891 I'm real *folksy*; grasshoppers ain't no neighbors to me.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Huckleberries,' p. 331 (Boston).

**Fool.** Foolish. O.E., now Sc. and dial., N.E.D.

- 1842 I'do not know whence the means were drawn that supported all the *fool* Federal fandangoes that disgraced the country.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio in the House of Representatives, Jan. 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 153, App.  
 1878 One *fool* Indian fired too soon, and gave the alarm.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 306.

**Fool**—*contd.*

- 1908 That's a *fool* notion, but you can't git it out o' some people's heads.—'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 117.
- 1910 [Mr. Roosevelt, say they,] has told the Egyptians what is good for them; if they haven't sense enough to see it, so much the worse for the Egyptians and their *fool* friends in England.—*New York Evening Post*, March 31.

**A Fool to.** Nothing in comparison of. English examples, 1596, 1791, N.E.D.

- 1806 A pretty scene of confusion ensued,—everything in the old 'Comedy of Errours' is a *fool to it*.—*The Repertory*, Boston, Aug. 19.
- 1820 Putnam's exploit with the wolf was a *fool to this*.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 12.

**Fool-duck, -fish, -hen.** See N.E.D.

**Foot the bill.** To pay the account.

- 1844 I'll drink with him, even if I have to *foot the bill*.—'Lowell Offering,' iv. 76.
- 1848 If our plan succeeded, the landlord was to *foot the bill*, and "stand treat."—'Stray Subjects,' p. 183. (N.E.D.)
- 1862 While de bressed darkies dance their fill,  
Let de white trash *foot de fiddler's bill*.  
'Major Jack Downing,' April 29.

**Foot up.** To reckon up.

- 1840 Should it turn out otherwise [with the State of Arkansas]—should her banks disappoint her—she will *foot up* the bills herself, and pay them.—Mr. Sevier of Arkansas in the Senate, Feb. 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 186, App.
- 1841 Put your hand into the Treasury . . . and *foot up* and pay the bill.—Mr. Southard of New Jersey, Senate, Jan. 15: *id.*, p. 365, App.
- 1851 He will *foot up* the number of acres he has "saved," and charge accordingly.—Mr. Benton of Missouri in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 31: *id.*, p. 407.
- 1852 The wall paper was . . . garnished with chalk memorandums and long sums *footed up*.—'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' chap. xxxv. (N.E.D.)

**Foot-hill.** A hill near the foot of a mountain range.

- 1873 In California, everything under 2,000 feet is called a hill; if it leads up to a mountain, a *foothill*.—J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 253 (Phila., &c.).
- 1879 The long ascent through sweeping *foot hills* to the gates of rock.—Miss Bird, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 232. (N.E.D.)

**Foot-loose.** Unfettered.

- a.1699 Sedition was his Drift, and he could ne'r  
Persue that game, unlesse he *footloose* were.  
Jas. Beaumont, 'Psyche' (1702), cxlviii. (N.E.D.)
- 1873 All of my friends who were "*footloose*" had the "Arizona fever."—J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 669 (Phila., &c.).

**Footstool.** The earth : with reference to Isaiah lxvi. 1.

- 1821 We felt a total superiority to all the humble beings who were creeping on the *footstool* beneath.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iii. 245.
- 1841 One of the most reckless hordes of camp-followers that ever vexed an honest man, or disgraced *God's footstool*.—Mr. Kennedy of Indiana, House of Representatives, Aug. 2 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 267, App.
- 1856 An appropriation . . . to Washington, Georgetown, or any other spot on *God's footstool*.—Mr. Trippe of Georgia, the same, April 14 : *id.*, p. 896.
- 1857 This people is not in bondage to any government on *God's footstool*.—Brigham Young, Sept. 13 : 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 226.
- 1859 I would give that power [of declaring war] to no President—none that has ever stood upon this *footstool*.—Mr. Fessenden of Maine, U.S. Senate, Feb. 18 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1122.
- 1867 No man on this *footstool* can rise and git up and say, &c.—Artemus Ward, 'The Showman's Courtship.'
- 1891 I found Mauchline to be the most God-forsaken place on the *footstool*.—*Boston Journal*, Sept. 12. (N.E.D.)

**Forbidden.** See quotations. The meaning is obscure.

- 1837 *Forbidden* fruit, citrons, melons, and limes, are rapidly increasing.—John L. Williams, 'Territory of Florida,' p. 113 (N.Y.).
- 1848 Papa invites no one to the house but *forbidden* clerks, Quakers, and gray heads.—Burton's 'Waggeries,' p. 28.
- \*.\* *Forbidden* fruit is especially the *Citrus Paradisi*.

**Force.** A body of workmen.

- 1845 The crop had been so great as to be beyond the ability, to gather in the harvest, of the *force* by which it was made.—W. G. Simms, 'The Wigwam and the Cabin,' p. 178 (Lond.).
- 1853 Those without what is termed a large *force* or number of negroes.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 245.
- 1853 A man who owned a small "*force*" was engaged in the brickmaking business.—*Id.*, p. 391.

**Fore-board.** See quotation.

- 1823 The *fore-board* [is] framed into the body of the wagon.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 26 : from the *Boston Evening Gazette*.

**Forehanded.** Provident, thrifty, well fixed.

- 1650 An early and *forehanded* care.—Jeremy Taylor, 'Holy Living' (1727), p. 12. (N.E.D.)
- 1777 Here and there a farmer and a tradesman, who is *forehanded* and frugal enough to make more money than he has occasion to spend.—J. Q. Adams, 'Works' (1854), ix. 454. (N.E.D.)
- 1834 An old gentleman, who by a long course of thrift and saving had become, as the phrase is, consider'ble *forehanded*.—*Vermont Free Press*, Aug. 16.

**Forehanded**—*contd.*

- 1843 [He was arriving at] that comfortable state, which obtains in New England the appellation of "*fore-handed*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, viii. 329.
- 1854 Wiggins was a little waspish man, who lived in the country, and was called a "*forehanded*" farmer.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 99.
- 1855 "He leaves, I understand, a large property?" "Well, yes; the Squire was a *forehanded* man—well off."—Donald G. Mitchell, 'Fudge Doings,' i. 212.
- 1856 —Carpenter and jiner by trade; quite a *forehanded* man.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 7.
- 1870 Father is *forehanded*; he says I can go to school, but I ain't going to try it.—*Putnam's Mag.*, Jan. (De Vere).
- 1878 Parson he reckoned he'd be amazin' *forehanded* this year.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Cal Culver and the Devil,' *Harper's Mag.*, lvii. 574.

**Forest City, The.** Cleveland, Ohio.

- 1861 [Mr. Lincoln's] reception at the "*Forest City*" proved that the Western Reserve was devoted to the Union.—O. J. Victor, 'History of the Southern Rebellion,' i. 376.

**Forested.** Covered with forests.

- 1821 A country universally *forested*, as North America was.... By this curious process [of slow decay] *forested* grounds are kept always healthy.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iii. 253.
- 1865 [Little] of this vast range of wild country has been *forested*.—*Qu. Review*, July, p. 18. (N.E.D.)

**Fore-stick.** The front stick in a log-fire.

- 1793 He found his companion lying in a large body of live coals, her head on the backlog and knees on the *forestick*.—*Mass. Spy*, March 7.
- 1804 The helpless infant, being fastened in, was held across the *forestick*, with its face over the blaze.—*Id.*, Feb. 29.
- 1847 In the morning, a buckeye backlog and hickory *forestick* resting on stone and irons, with a Johnny-cake on a clean ash-board set before it to bake.—Drake, 'Pioneer Life in Kentucky,' p. 107 (Cincinnati, 1870).
- 1859 It was a cold morning; but the "log" was in the fireplace, crowned with the "back-log," "middle-log," and "top-stick," the apex almost "up-chimley"; the "*forestick*" lay just inside of the tall brass-tipped andirons; two "middle-sticks," with "kindling-wood" and "chips," were beyond; and upon this arose the superstructure, criss-cross and slanting-wise, of split maple, birch, and hickory, with "round-wood" in the interstices; then the brands plucked from last night's burning were raked together underside....It comes back to us, this cold Monday in January, on which we write, with flame and fervent heat in the very recollection of it.—*Knicker. Mag.*, liii. 324.
- 1878 Backlog and *forestick* were soon piled, and kindlings laid.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Poganuc People,' chap. ix.

**Fork.** A branch of a river. See 1820.

1753 We got to the big *fork* of said river.—C. Gist, 'Journals,' (1893), p. 80. (N.E.D.)

1817 The *Skillet-fork* is a river of similar character....It is a dreadful country on each side of the *skillet-fork*, flat and swampy.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' pp. 144–5.

1820 Where two streams unite, the lesser is frequently termed a *fork* of the larger into which it empties, as the North *Fork* of the Saline, *Skillet Fork* of Little Wabash, Smith's *Fork* of Muddy.—Hall's 'Letters from the West,' p. 209.

1837 The fork of the *Nebraska*, where it divides itself into two equal and beautiful streams.—W. Irving, 'Captain Bonneville' (1849), p. 41. (N.E.D.)

**Fort, Fort up.** To fortify oneself. 1559, 1566, 1572, N.E.D.

1704 She was in a fortified house, or, as then vulgarly called, a house which was *forted*.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 348 (1821).

1747 Consider what measures to take about *forting* the Town.—*Westfield* (Mass.) *Jubilee*, p. 132. (N.E.D.)

1756 You remain....*forted in*, as if to defend yourselves were the sole end of your coming.—Geo. Washington, 'Writings' (1889), i. 360. (N.E.D.)

1853 Suppose we should say to all the wards in this city, the time has come to *fort up*.—Brigham Young, July 31: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 165.

**Forty-niners.** The "Argonauts" of California.

1890 See Haskins, 'Argonauts of California,' *passim*.

**Fotched up.** Brought up or "raised." Decidedly rustic.

1848 "Where was you raised, old feller?" "Raised?" "Yes, raised,—*fotched up*. You was *fotched up* somewhere, I reckon."—Burton's 'Waggeries,' p. 88 (Phila.).

1852 I was *fotched up* right in among 'em, and taught some of the best of 'em how to shoot and trap.—H. C. Watson, 'Nights in a Block-house,' p. 30 (Phila.).

[See TOTE, 1825, where *fotch* is styled a niggerism.]

**Fourfolding.** See quotation. Fourfold (v.) is given by Webster, 1806: N.E.D.

1821 If the proprietor gives in a false list, he is punished by having the falsified article increased in the list fourfold. We therefore style this punishment *Fourfolding*.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 285.

**Fowl-meadow grass.** *Poa trivialis*.

1774 Shall I try to introduce *fowl-meadow* and herds-grass into the meadows?—J. Q. Adams, 'Diary,' Feb. 28. (N.E.D.)

1786 *Fowl meadow-grass* is cultivated in wet meadows.—M. Cutler, 'Life,' &c. (1888), ii. 264. (N.E.D.)

1801 Stake out an acre of *fowl-meadow*.—'Spirit of the Farmer's Museum,' p. 267.

1817 "Herd's grass, *Fowl Meadow*, and White Clover Seed" advertised: *Mass. Spy*, April 30.

1824 Jeremiah Robinson offers for Sale Herd Grass [Seed], *Foul Medow* [Seed], &c.—*Id.*, April 21.

**Fox-fire.** Phosphorescent light. 1483, but now only U.S. (N.E.D.)

1829 The *fox-fire*, as the country people call it, glowed hideously from the cold and matted bosom of the marsh.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Swallow Barn,' p. 261 (N.Y., 1851).

1839 It is not everything that shines in the dark that is fire in reality, but [it] often turns out on examination to be *fox-fire*, or something else.—Mr. Murray of Kentucky, House of Repr., Jan. 31: *Cong. Globe*, p. 152, App.

1853 The *fox-fire* of the Virginia meadows.—Kane, 'Grinnell Expedition' (1856), p. 193. (N.E.D.)

See also 'Dialect Notes,' ii. 64 (Ky.), iii. 312 (Ala.).

**Frail.** To beat. Southern.

1851 The old man plainly told her, if she did not hush, he would *frail* her worse than a dog would a pole-cat.—'An Arkansas Doctor,' p. 82 (Phila.).

1851 I tried taking some half dozen large switches, and laying it on him with all my power. He appeared thankful that I had saved his life, but did not like the thought of getting a *frailing* for it.—*Id.*, p. 123.

**Fraise, Fraising.** A defensive palisade.

1775 By the time we arrived there, the *fraise* around the berme would be destroyed.—R. Montgomery in Sparks's 'Corr. Am. Revol.' (1853), i. 470. (N.E.D.)

1821 He fastened the corner of his blanket round a picket of *fraising*.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' ii. 191.

**Frame, Frame house.** See quotation, 1797.

1784 A large *framed House*, almost as good as new.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, May 11.

1784 A two-story *Framed House*, with two rooms on a floor.—*Id.*, May 14.

1796 "That certain one-story *Frame Shop* in front, and Two Story *Frame Messuage*, &c."—Sheriff's notice in *The Aurora*, Phila., April 15.

1796 To be sold, An Elegant Three Story *Frame House*.—*Id.*, Nov. 28.

1797 A *frame-house* is one built of sawed wood: the timbers of the log-houses are only hewn.—Fra. Baily, F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 219, note (Lond., 1856).

1799 *Frame tenement* at Auction.—*The Aurora*, Aug. 13.

1817 She has exchanged her hovel of unhewn logs for a *framed building*.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 122.

1817 A storekeeper builds a little *framed store*, and sends for a few cases of goods.—*Id.*, p. 118.

1821 This man had a *framed house* of two stories, with two rooms on a floor.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iii. 344.

1821 A beautiful *framed Episcopal Church*, in the Gothic style, [at Buffalo].—Zerah Hawley, 'Tour,' p. 96 (New Haven).

1851 [The steamboat looked] like an infernal big *frame house*, with the kitchen wall knocked out.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 119.



**Frame, Frame house—contd.**

- 1857 It is a *frame house*, of forlorn and pinched-up aspect.—T. B. Gunn, 'New York Boarding Houses,' p. 58.
- 1860 I have an objection to *frame houses* in this country.—Brigham Young at Logan, Utah, June 10: 'Journal of Discourses,' viii. 79.

**Franklin.** A Franklin stove. An amusing discussion arose in 1909 in the columns of *Notes and Queries* as to the meaning of the word in quot. 1867.

- 1841 [A certain booby] was told that the *Franklin stove* would save half the wood. Well, said he, I will buy two stoves, and that will save all the wood.—Mr. Arnold of Tennessee in the House of Representatives: *Cong. Globe*, p. 452, App.
- 1858 We have our *Franklin stove*, with all its accompaniments; and even now its flickering blaze lights up the chambers of our imagination.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxiii. 204.

- 1867 And bushed asparagus, in faded green,  
Added its shiver to the *franklin* clean.

Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story,' *Atlantic Mag.*, Jan.

\*.\* The word was used in 1817 to signify a lightning-conductor.—See Mr. Albert Matthews's note in *Notes and Queries*, 11 S. iii. 486.

**Frazzle.** A frayed-out end. Southern. To FRAZZLE. To fray out. East Anglia, 1825. N.E.D.

- 1882 All these causes combined dwindled the Army of Northern Virginia away to a mere *frazzle*, as General Gordon expressed it.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' x. 504 (Richmond, Va.).
- 1884 The end came, when Gordon had "fought his corps to a *frazzle*."—*Id.*, xiv. 92.
- 1893 One's garments get *frazzled* in the grass; one's mind and body....sometimes become *frazzled*, torn to pieces, good for nothing.—*American Missionary*, Dec. (N.E.D.)
- 1894 Two years ago his nerves were worn to a *frazzle* over an attempt made to levy a tax.—*Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch*, Jan. 2. (N.E.D.)
- 1910 Physically depressed as they all were, the edge of their fighting spirit was not dulled. Indeed, it seemed to have increased as their nerves became more "*frazzled*."—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 21.

**Fredonian.** The "Fredonian Republic," which numbered a handful of citizens, and lasted about fifty days, was set up in Texas, in the year 1832, by one Edwards. See the 'Narrative of James O. Pattie' (Cincinnati), pp. 289–291. "Fredonia" is noticed in E. A. Freeman's 'Impressions of the U.S.' (1883), p. 32.

**Free glass.** An occasional drink.

- 1775 i have never yet heard of one going to Florida, who was not told by a friend that a *free glass* was necessary.—Bernard Romans's 'Florida,' p. 13. [Romans insisted on the small letter for the personal pronoun.]



**Free-soiler.** One who was for excluding slavery from the "Territories" of the U.S.

- 1848 The *Free Soil* party turned out to be the feeblest faction that ever undertook to bear arms in a Presidential contest ; they were not able to give the candidate of their choice a single electoral vote.—Mr. Foote of Mississippi in the U.S. Senate, Dec. 13 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 36.
- 1849 We do not charge him with Abolitionism, or *Free-Soilism*, but with duplicity.—Mr. Kaufman of Texas in the House of Repr., Dec. 13 : *id.*, p. 24.
- 1849 Palfrey, Adams, Sumner . . . all and several *Free-soilers*. —Longfellow, 'Life' (1891), ii. 162. (N.E.D.)
- 1855 Mr. Evans has said repeatedly that he would rather be called a Locofoco than a *free-soiler*. —*Olympia* (W.T.) *Pioneer*, July 13.
- 1884 One party claimed the right to exclude slavery entirely from the Territories. These were the *Free-Soilers*. Another was for extending the Missouri Compromise to the Pacific Ocean. Another party claimed that the people of the Territory should settle this question for themselves. This was Stephen A. Douglass's theory, and was called Squatter Sovereignty. Still another party claimed that the people could only determine this question when they came to be a State.—Shields, 'Life of S. S. Prentiss,' p. 410.

**Free-stone.** A peach, the flesh of which does not cling to the stone.

**Freeze out.** To force to retire ; to eliminate without actually "bouncing."

- 1882 John A. Walsh became the contractor on the route after the original contractor had been "*frozen out*."—*N.Y. Times*, Feb. 2.
- 1882 I have not sought to "*freeze*" Col. Cook out of the cases. —*Washington Post*, March 18.
- 1882 Colonel Cook claims to have been *frozen out* of the cases. Now whether that is true or not depends upon what is meant by the words "*Frozen out*."—*N.Y. Herald*, March 19.
- 1882 The *freezing-out* process was applied by Mr. Bliss to Cook, and it worked like a charm. These eliminations have caused not a little gossip.—*Philadelphia Press*, March 19.
- 1902 He thinks he can *freeze you out* by holding off till you have to raise money.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 247.
- 1910 Berry, according to open charges made, was "*frozen out*" by Boss Guffey some time ago ; and the man who was generally accepted as a good substitute declined to take the nomination at the last moment.—*New York Evening Post*, June 16.

**Freight.** Goods sent by land-carriage. A FREIGHT-TRAIN, composed of FREIGHT-CARS, is the usual vehicle.

- 1813 "[I] will take *Freight* [from Boston to Philadelphia] on reasonable terms." Picture of a two-horse covered waggon. —Advt., *Boston-Gazette*, June 21.

**Freight**—*contd.*

- 1856 There were two first-class passenger cars, and two *freight-cars*.—Olmsted, 'Slave States,' p. 55. (N.E.D.)
- 1881 A *freight* of thirty loaded cars....collided with the other train.—*Chicago Times*, June 18. (N.E.D.)

**Frickle.** A chap, a fellow (?)

- 1842 "I seen the master out o' doors," replied one of the *frickles*.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 175.

**Frockee.** See quotation.

- 1818 A little great coat, commonly called a *frockee*.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, Aug. 5.

**Frog.** See quotations.

- 1860 *Frog*, a grooved piece of iron placed at the junction of the rails, where one track crosses another.—Worcester, 'Dict.,' N.E.D.  
 "When used at a crossing, to unite the rails, it is called a *cross-frog*."—'Century Dict.'

**Frog-pond.** This word seems to have escaped the lexicographers. Meaning obvious.

- 1799 The land adjoining and including *Frog Pond*, situated in said town of Newburyport.—*Mass. Mercury*, Feb. 19.
- 1799 The hero who performed such wonders at the Kensington (Phila.) *frog-pond*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., May 28.
- 1825 Winkin' away, jess like so many milk adders at a *frog-pond*.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 143.
- 1829 The centre [of the district] had been discovered exactly in the centre of a *frog-pond*.—Sarah J. Hale, 'American Sketches,' p. 121 (Boston).
- 1854 A man on a *frog-pond* in a rain-storm.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xix. 363.
- 1859 After a man begins to attack the State-House, when he gets bitter about the *Frog-Pond*, you may be sure there is not much left of him.—O. W. Holmes, 'Professor at the Breakfast-Table,' chap. xi.

**Frolie.** A lively "spree."

- 1767 Stolen, a Pigg about 90 wt., supposed for such a *Frolick* as detected at New-york.—*Boston Post-boy*, Dec. 28.
- 1772 Since the above instance, the ingenuity of some of those nocturnal *Sley-frolickers* has added the Drum and Conk-shell, or Pope-horn, to their own natural, noisy, abilities.—*Boston-Gazette*, Feb. 3. (N.E.D.)
- 1789 They were both staggering home from a *frolie* on a thanksgiving eve.—'American Museum,' v. 453.
- 1817 This operation is almost always the subject of what they term a *frolie*, or in some places a bee.—J. Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 292. (N.E.D.)
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**Frolic**—*contd.*

- 1815 He happened to get both eyes gouged out yesterday in a *frolic*.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 218.
- 1833 They meant to have a *reaping frolic* when the corn should be ripe. It should be a picnic.—Harriet Martineau, 'Briery Creek,' p. 18. (N.E.D.)
- 1834 "And who was your antagonist in this *frolic*?" "*Frolic*! well now, it's what I would call a regular row."—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 61 (N.Y.).
- 1854 We had no say in the matter, but we were amazed, and stood back, as common people say, like poor folks at a *frolic*.—Mr. Clayton of Delaware, U.S. Senate, June 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1000, App.

**Frosted.** Frost-bitten.

- 1807 Two more of my men got badly *frosted*.—Pike, 'Sources of the Mississippi' (1810), ii., App. 29. (N.E.D.)
- 1839 You appear very cold. I fear you are *frosted*.—'History of Virgil A. Stewart,' p. 28 (N.Y.).
- 1839 They informed him that the negroes had arrived some days before, and were badly *frosted*.—*Id.*, p. 91.

**Frost-fish.** The tom-cod.

- 1634 Th' *Frost fish* and the Smelt.—W. Wood, 'New Eng. Prosp.' (1865), p. 36. (N.E.D.)
- 1792 *Frost-fish* are taken with wooden tongs, and black eels in cylindrical baskets.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 90.

**Frowy.** Musty, stale,

- 1579 They....like not of the *frowie* fede.—Spenser, 'Shepherd's Calendar,' July. (N.E.D.)
- 1856 This 'ere butter's a leetle grain *frowy*.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 7.
- 1866 Mrs. D is a decent housekeeper, and so her bread is not sour, her butter not *frowy*, &c.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Little Foxes,' p. 117. (N.E.D.)

**Fugacious.** Fugitive. 1651, N.E.D. Now obs. in England.

- 1826 As greedily as a bailiff possesses himself of a *fugacious* captain.—Sydney Smith, in the *Edinburgh Review*.
- 1846 I will not permit any such *fugacious* scandal against any high executive officer.—Mr. Westcott of Florida in the U.S. Senate, April 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 709.
- 1850 A *fugacious* bill for the capture of runaway negroes.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, April 8: *id.*, p. 657.
- 1860 This *fugacious* exploit will be [Gen. Ortega's] only victory upon the royal occupant of the Escorial.—*Richmond Enquirer*, May 1, p. 1/3.
- 1860 The *fugacious* woman was tracked to Canemah.—*Oregon Argus*, July 7.

**Fugleman.** (Originally *flugelman*.) In its applied meaning, a political leader.

- 1802 He did not come to New York to get it corrected and amended by the centre *flugelman* of all mischief.—‘Letters to Alex. Hamilton,’ p. 8.
- 1814 Like the *flugelman* of a regiment, he over-acts the movements which he would excite in others. — W. Taylor, *Monthly Review*, lxxiv. 271. (N.E.D.)
- 1827 We propose Lord Nugent as a political *flugelman*.—Sydney Smith, ‘Works’ (1859), ii. 120. (N.E.D.)
- 1835 Keep your eye on the *fugleman*.—‘Col. Crockett’s Tour,’ p. 24 (Phila.).
- 1841 I always observed the instructions of the militia captain to his beginners in the manual exercise; I kept my eye upon the *fugleman*.—Mr. Benton of Missouri in the Senate, Jan. 26: *Cong. Globe*, p. 119, App.
- 1850 I do not recognize the honorable member and his half a dozen compeers on this floor as my file-leaders, or as my *fuglemen* in this campaign.—Mr. Winthrop of Mass., House of Repr., Feb. 21: *id.*, p. 191, App.

**Full chisel.** Strenuously; at full tilt.

- 1832 I met an express coming on *full chisel* from Philadelphia.—Seba Smith, ‘Major Jack Downing,’ p. 168 (1860).
- 1836 He talks *full chisel*, like a Guinea hen.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Dec. 10.
- 1837 He then cut stick for his lodgings, and in about an hour returned *full chisel*, followed by a strapping nigger.—*Id.*, March 6.
- 1846 Hosy he cum down stares *full chizzle*, hare on eend an cote tales flyin. ‘Biglow Papers,’ No. 1.
- 1856 I intend to go into it, and sarve the Lord, now, *full chisel*.—Mrs. Stowe, ‘Dred,’ chap. xxiii.
- 1856 Brom went “*full chisel*” to the Justice of the Peace, and prayed sureties for the peace against Barent.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlviii. 440 (Oct.).
- 1856 A friend of ours, passing a house, observed a child at the door with what he considered a very dangerous plaything, namely, a chisel; and accordingly stepped in to inform the parent. “Madam,” said he, “are you aware that your child has got the chisel?” “Why, the mercy on me!” exclaimed the mother; “well, I knew something was the matter, for the child has been ailing a long time.” The child was probably “going it *full chisel*” at that very moment.—*Id.*, 656 (Dec.).
- 1878 The only way to get that fellow to heaven would be to set out to drive him to hell; then he’d turn and run up the narrow way *full chisel*.—Mrs. Stowe, ‘Poganuc People,’ chap. ix.

**Fumble-foot.** A weed which entangles the feet.

- 1804 The principle (*sic*) things which prevent the growth of cabbages are the *fumble foot*, so called, grubs, and lice.—*The Balance*, May 15, p. 156 (Hudson, N.Y.).

**Funeral,'not one's.** Not one's affair: what in law is termed  
"Res inter alios acta."

- 1854 A boy said to an outsider who was making a great ado during some impressive mortuary ceremonies, "What are you crying about? *it's none of your funeral.*"—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Nov. 25.
- 1867 "*It's none of my funeral*, I know," said Miss C.—Mrs. Whitney, 'A Summer in L. Goldthwaite's Life,' p. 183 (Bartlett).
- 1877 Senator Barnum asked Blaine how he liked the news from Ohio. "O, *that isn't my funeral*, I want you to understand," replied the Maine Senator.—*Hartford Times*, Oct. 17 (Bartlett).
- 1878 "You're old enough to know better'n to marry a feller like him." "Well! where's the harm on't if we're both on us suited? *It's our own funeral*, I guess."—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' chap. xxvii.
- 1896 It ain't *any o' your funeral*, I guess, if I did turn [the clock] back.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 184.

**Fur fly, to make the.** To whip one's opponent; to make a big commotion.

- 1825 If my New York master only had hold o' him, he'd *make the feathers fly*.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 94.
- 1845 "She better not come a cavortin' bout me with any of her rantankerous carryins on," . . . and he made a threatening gesture, as much as to say he'd *make the fur fly* if she did.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 178.
- 1846 I throwed the licks into him right and left, and I *made the fur fly*, I tell you.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 94.
- 1853 Mr. Editor, if you would larrup some of your neighbours a little, and *make their fur fly*, they would let you alone.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, March 4.
- 1855 The money would have to be planked right down on the nail, and *the hair would fly* somewhere.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 437 (1860).
- 1862 He had been all summer buildin a hull lot of iron plated monsters, and ef the war didn't come to an end too soon, they would *make the fur fly*.—'Major Jack Downing's Letters,' Nov. 22.
- 1888           There may be a few perhaps who fail  
                  To see it in quite this light;  
                  But *when the fur flies*, I had rather be  
                  The outside dog in the fight.  
                  Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 257.
- 1888 Wait until the National Convention, and you will see *the fur fly* from the Cleveland hide.—*Denver Republican*, Feb. 29 (Farmer).



**Fuss and Feathers.** A nickname of Gen. Winfield Scott.

1860 We have a magnificent turkey; N. says he's her beau, and that "*Fuss-and-Feathers*" has more real style than any man who ever lived.—*Knicker. Mag.*, lvi. 359 (Oct.).

1861 I am General S—, whose deeds of fame  
Have added *fuss and feathers* to my name.  
Verses in the *Richmond Enquirer*, Feb. 5, p. 4/1.

**Fyke fence.** See quotation.

1858 To the uninitiated I would describe a *fyke fence* as a string of twigs, of a heavy growth, made like the panels of a fence, and fastened to poles driven into the mud.—*Harper's Weekly*, April 24.

**Fyke net.** A hoop or bow net.

1679 The name *Fuyck* or hoop-net, as applied to Albany, occurs in a voyage to New Netherland.—'Memoirs of the Long Island Historical Society,' i. 319.

1832 During the period [preceding 1664] Albany bore also the popular nickname of *Fuyck*, which means hoop-net, in reference to their use of it in fishing.—Watson's 'Historic Tales of New York,' p. 17.

1860 The large bow-nets in New York harbour, used for catching shad, are called *shad-fykes* (Bartlett).

## G

**Gag bill, Gag law.** One limiting debate, or suppressing scandals.

1798 Query have the Cherokees any *gag-bill*? — *The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 1.

1798 If the people of Constantinople were so severe with a boy for gagging a fowl, how would they proceed with the old woman who should gag a whole nation.—*Id.*, Aug. 17.

1798 "*The Gag Bill*," so called, providing against scandalous and seditious publications, was approved by President John Adams, July 14, and printed in the *Aurora*, Dec. 13.

1799 —To induce the people to believe standing armies are blessings, that the *gag law* is a blessing (for so the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Gallatin, said), &c.—Speech of Mr. Dennis in Congress.—*Id.*, Feb. 16.

1799 The *gag law* is either destitute of that impartial spirit which ought to characterize every law, or &c.—*Id.*, April 15.

1800 They have harrowed the feelings of the people by *gag-bills*, stamp-acts, and land-taxes, and hatchelled them with prosecutions, fines, and imprisonments.—*Id.*, Oct. 20.

1805 I remember that Mr. Jefferson was among those who exclaimed against what was called the "*gag law*."—*Mass. Spy*, July 10.





**Gallinipper—contd.**

- 1839 I desire those who come hereafter may bring healing in their wings, and not the appetites and probosces of *gallinippers*. (Note). *Gallinipper* is the common name for a large species of moscheto in the West.—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, House of Repr., Jan. 16: *Congressional Globe*, p. 375, App.
- 1840 Speaking of "moschetos" (which you spell in a confoundedly affected manner) did you ever see a *gallinipper*?—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, Sept. 29.
- 1841 Had he not endeavoured to analyze the vocalism of *gallinippers*?—J. C. Neal, 'Peter Ploddy,' &c., p. 8.
- 1842 The *gallinippers* of Florida are said to have aided the Seminoles in appalling our armies.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 184.
- a.1853 Winter brings *gallinippers* of a sharper bite than fleas or mosquitoes.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 190.
- 1853 Resolutions were passed....denouncing all banks, great and small, from the *gallinipper* up or down, whichever you please.—Mr. Ficklin of Illinois, House of Repr., Jan. 14: *Cong. Globe*, p. 304.
- 1859 This is a great country, and very productive, if you count as "produce" thunder and lightning, hailstorms, mud, crawfish, flies, mosquitoes, and "*gallon-nippers*."—Letter from Illinois to the *Oregon Argus*, Aug. 13.
- 1866 Such bores I style Bores "G.," which stands for *Gallinippers*.—Charles H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 16.
- 1888 Our rainwater was full of *gallinippers* and pollywogs.... [The] banks of mud all bred mosquitoes, or *gallinippers*, as the darkies called them.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' pp. 76-77.

**Gallowses.** Braces; suspenders. Bailey, 1730-6. N.E.D.

- 1806 It must be very handy to have shoulder-straps instead of *gallowses*,—besides, *gallows* is an ugly name.—'Spirit of the Public Journals,' p. 154 (Balt.).
- 1824 Many of us wore *gallowses*, sat behind the singers, and had the choice to wear shoes or go barefoot.—*The Microscope*, March 6 (Albany).
- 1834 The other singularity is that [the Weehawk people] wear no *gallowses*, or suspenders.—Robert C. Sands, 'Writings,' ii. 282 (N.Y.).
- 1839 Have you heern of a machine for fastening your *gallowses* behind?—*Havana* (N.Y.) *Republican*, July 31.
- 1843 [He wore] one "*gallus*" strained to keep up his greasy and raggy breeches.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 89.
- 1847 Is it not enough that we have "suspenders" or "*gallowses*," as our juvenile nomenclature used to have it?—*Knickerbocker*, xxix. 386 (April).
- 1848 Ef I could only come across that ere Vermonter, which I was took in by, if I wouldn't spile his picter, bust my boots and *gallowses*.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 168.

**Gallowses—contd.**

- 1850 The boys....displayed their bran new "*gallowses*."—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxv. 24 (Jan.).
- 1854 Here's my hat, Squire, and you shall have my *gallusses* as soon as I can get at 'em.—*Id.*, xliii. 50 (Jan.).
- 1854 Next is something that you all ought to have, gentlemen : a lot of good *gallowses*, sometimes called suspenders.—*San Francisco News*, n.d.
- 1857 Between seven and eight [the Yankee boy] suspends his trowsers by strings, which he calls "*galluses*."—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 530 (May).

**Galoot.** A fellow. Originally a raw young soldier. (See N.E.D.)

- 1888 The eyes of the old *galoots* started out of their heads, and they vamosed the ranche, I can tell you.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 49.

\*.\* See also Appendix IX.

**Gambrel-roof.** See quot. 1858. A gambrel is a crooked piece of wood, on which butchers hang up the carcasses of beasts by the legs : Ray's 'English Proverbs,' ed. 1813, p. 96, in explanation of the saying, "Soon crooks the tree that good gainbrel would be."—Blount has *cambren*, and the Scottish variant is *cammock*.

- 1765 To be sold, a large building with two upright Stories and a *Gambrel Roof*.—*Mass. Gazette*, Dec. 19.
- 1824 In a *gambrel-roof'd* house, by the side of the road,  
She dwelt with a heart void of care.  
*The Microscope*, Feb. 21 : from the *Providence Journal*.
- 1851 Here and there was a house in the then new style, three-storied, with *gambrel roof* and dormer windows.—Sylvester Judd, 'Margaret,' p. 30. (N.E.D.)
- 1858 Know old Cambridge ? Hope you do.—  
Born there ? Don't say so ! I was, too.  
(Born in a house with a *gambrel-roof*.—  
Standing still, if you must have proof.—  
Gambrel ?—Gambrel ?—Let me beg  
You'll look at a horse's hinder leg,—  
First great angle above the hoof,—  
That's the gambrel ; hence *gambrel-roof*.)  
'Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table,' chap. xii.
- 1858 Poem on "The Old *Gambrel-Roof*."—*Knick. Mag.*, lii. 473 (Nov.).

**Gander-pulling.** A survival, in the South, of the brutal old Kelso custom of "plucking at a goose" : as to which see Brand's 'Popular Antiquities' (1849), iii. 40.

- 1834 Cock-fights, shooting-matches, *gander-pullings*, and horse-races had become more frequent in the mountains.—  
'Novellettes of a Traveller,' ii. 162 (N.Y.).
- 1840 "A *Gander-pulling*" is inimitably described by A. B. Longstreet in 'Georgia Scenes.'
- 1843 Haliburton. (N.E.D.)

**Gander-pulling—contd.**

- 1852 A *gander-pulling* is described in 'As Good as a Comedy,' pp. 114-121 (Phila.).
- 1856 John, the eldest son, adopted the ancient and honorable profession of a loafer. To lie idle in the sun, in front of some small grogshop, to attend horse-races, cock-fights, and *gander-pullings*, . . . . were pleasures to him.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' chap. viii.

**Gang of saws.** See quotations.

- 1821 [I saw] in one of the mills what is called a *gang of saws*; that is, a sufficient number to convert a log into boards by a single operation.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iii. 217.
- 1883 A "*gang*," as a set of saws is called, . . . . arranged at different intervals.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 824. (N.E.D.)

**Gangling.** Moving loosely and clumsily. Scotch.

- 1845 A long, slab-sided, *gangling* fellow from the Western reserve.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' i. 20.
- 1854 A loose, *gangling* figure like you, Sam, ought to see no great difficulty in anything being onjointed.—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 168.
- 1861 When that long, *gangling* form swings itself into the White House door.—*Lafayette (Ind.) Journal*, Jan.

**Ganty.** [Not in the dictionaries.]

- 1772 A mare is described as "a *gant*y lofty carriage Beast."—Advt., *Mass. Gazette*, Jan. 30.

**Gar.** A fish. See 1823.

- 1765 'Tis full of large fish, as cats, *garr*, mullets.—J. Bartram, 'Journal,' Dec. 27. (N.E.D.)
- 1823 "At the mouth of this creek we saw the remains of several *gar fish* (*esox osseus*)."—The fish described.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Expedition,' ii. 154 (Phila.).
- 1829 [The scratching instruments] most in fashion were formed out of the teeth of the fish called *Gar*.—Basil Hall, 'Travels in N. America,' iii. 294.
- 1846 The *alligator gar* grows to the enormous length of fifteen feet; its head resembles the alligators'; within its wide-extended jaws glisten innumerable rows of teeth.—T. B. Thorpe, 'Mysteries of the Backwoods,' p. 38.
- 1856 We have a great many *gars*, sharks, sheeps heads, &c., in the pond.—Brigham Young, March 2: 'Journal of Discourses,' iii. 226.

**Gar-broth.** A broth made from gar-fish (?)

- 1833 The *Gar-broth* people are cluttering up the country hereabouts so fast that no man will be able to do as he pleases much longer.—J. K. Paulding, 'The Banks of the Ohio,' ii. 85 (Lond.).
- 1833 I say his gentility wont serve his turn here, nor his *gar-broth*.—*Id.*, ii. 215.
- 1833 If I hadn't sooner eat *garbroth* with a real nigger.—*Id.*, iii. 51.

**Garden sass.** Vegetables. (See also LONG SASS.)

- 1833 I wanted cabbage or potatoes, or most any kind of *garden sarse*.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 91.
- [1852 You git my son, of the name of Conklin Neppins, which, though brought up on *shore-sass* exclusive,—that's isters, clams, an' scollopses,—I guess few can beat him in potry or a-prosin', nary one.—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 546.]
- 1854 We put [the land] into taters, turnips, beets, and all kind-er *garden sass*.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 118 (N.Y.).
- 1857 They get so that fruit, and all kinds of *garden sauce*, are no rarity to them.—Brigham Young, Aug. 2: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 98.
- 1859 We carried back with us a basketful of green peas, lettuce, and onions. This, we believe, is about as early as they have such "*garden sass*" in the White Settlements.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Cherry Creek, Kansas Terr., June 18.

**Garget.** See 1792.

- 1788 *Garget*, sow-thistle, &c.—M. Cutler, 'Life,' &c. (1888), i. 422. (N.E.D.)
- 1792 The *Garget* (*phytolacca decandra*) is a valuable plant. Its berries yield a beautiful purple juice.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 125.
- 1826 The root, commonly called *Garget*, will kill horses, when only a small quantity is eaten.—*Mass. Spy*, June 7.
- 1826 Unless what B. Tabor calls *garget* is very different from the vegetable bearing [that] name with us, it is very improbable that it would produce any serious effects.—*Id.*, July 26.

**Garter-snake.**

- 1775 The black-snake, the bead-snake, the *garter-snake*, &c.—Andrew Burnaby, 'Travels in N. America,' p. 10. (N.E.D.)
- 1789 He was unable to prevent swallowing a *garter-snake*, which was gliding down the water.—*Maryland Journal*, Sept. 4.
- 1797 The black snake devoured another, of the species called the *garter-snake*, only six inches shorter than himself.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 25.
- 1800 I wish to defend a very harmless and useful reptile. I mean the black and *garter snake*. They are the farmer's best friends.—*The Aurora*, Phila., July 7.
- 1825 [He] worried me, as you'd worry a *garter-snake*, till I was ready to snap my own head off.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' iii. 254.
- 1829 [Here] you may find all kinds of snakes, from the pretty little *garter snake* up to the huge, overgrown, wampum-jawed rattlesnake.—*Mass. Spy*, July 1: from the *Plattsburgh Republican*.
- 1842 One of the clerks in the Baltimore Post Office, on opening a bag of letters, discovered a live *garter-snake*.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, July 28.
- 1858 He was about seven feet tall, and as thin as a *garter-snake*.—*Knick. Mag.*, li. 5 (Jan.).

**Gas.** Empty talk.

1847 The boys said that was all *gas* to scare them off.—Porter, 'Quarter Race, &c.,' p. 120. (N.E.D.)

1850 [The talk about a dissolution of the Union] is all mere *gas*, and I regret that some portion of this *gas* has entered both ends of this Capitol.—Mr. Atchison of Missouri, U.S. Senate, Aug. 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1500, Appendix.

1855 Now, when we want anything done we jist come together and do it right up, and no mistake; and when it's done 'tis done, without buncomin' and *gassin'* on't two or three days.—*Kansas Herald of Freedom*, Sept. 8, 2/4.

**Gaspar-goo.**

1810 A fine dish of *gaspar-goo*, the best fish I had yet tasted of the produce of the Mississippi.—F. Cuming, 'Tour,' p. 302 (Pittsburgh).

**Gate money.** That which is paid at the door or gate of a house or field of entertainment.

1909 The information of the average fan as to how the *gate money* is divided between the clubs is misty.—*The Book-keeper*, May.

**Gather.** To associate, to unite oneself.

1855 "Why don't you *gather* with the Saints?" "O, I am poor now; but I would very much like to *gather* with them."—Brigham Young, April 6: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 257.

1855 A poor, miserable, sinful creature, who *gathers* as a Saint, is worse than one who *gathers* as a Gentile.—The same, Oct. 8: *id.*, iii. 120.

**Gawk.** To stare about awkwardly.

1785 We....do little else than sit in the chunney-corner,.... *gawking* at each other with sorry grimace.—M. Cutler, 'Life,' &c. (1888), ii. 227. (N.E.D.)

1817 All with their wives, and some with their *gawking* offspring.—*Mass. Spy*, April 2.

**Gay Quaker.** A quaker dressing less soberly than others.

1798 Her dress was pretty nearly that marked as "*gay quakers*"; she wore a white gown, white gloves, green petticoat, and drab cloak.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Nov. 6.

**Gaz.** The French spelling, once current in Philadelphia, still survives in pronunciation in some parts of Pennsylvania.

1794 Mr. B. will now be obliged to look elsewhere for his *gaz*.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., May 31.

1799 The extrication of *gazes* from putrifying matter.—*The Aurora*, Phila., March 28.

1808 O'er great, o'er small extends his physic laws,  
Empalms the empyrean or dissects a *gaz*.  
Joel Barlow, 'Columbiad,' iv. 456. (N.E.D.)

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Empalms the empyrean or dissects a *gaz*.  
Joel Barlow, 'Columbiad,' iv. 456. (N.E.D.)



**Gewhlilkins, Gee whiz, &c.** Exclamations of surprise.

1857 And *great Gewhlilkins* ! wasn't the snow peppering down !  
—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 435 (Nov.).

1909 “*Gee whiz* !” said the cook, “but ain't that nice !”—  
Story in the *Living Church*, Jan. 2, p. 309.

**Geese, A.** See **FET, A.**

**Gee-string.** An Indian's waist-band.

1878 Around each boy's waist is the tight *gee-string*, from which a single strip of cloth runs between the limbs from front to back.—J. H. Beadle, ‘*Western Wilds*,’ p. 249.

**Gerrymander.** An artful mode of districting a portion of territory for political purposes. Also used as verb. See particularly 1881.

1812 Mr. Hooper described the figure made on the map as “a chart traced by a jack o' lantern ; a plan marked out by the course of the wind, the flight of a bird, or the wanderings of a maniac.” Mr. Reddington said that “the lines by which the county of Essex was divided had given to one district of that county a *figure more odious than a scorpion*.”—*Mass. Spy*, March 25.

1812 The same paper prints a short article from the *Repertory* entitled “*Gerrymander Senate*.”—Nov. 4.

1812 There are some votes in Middlesex for Mr. Scattering ; and some returns from democratic towns are not made conformable to the *Gerrymander* law of last February.—*Boston-Gazette*, Nov. 23.

1813 Essex *Gerrymander* District Address. This address is as crooked and wicked as the district is deformed.—*Id.*, April 5.

1813 The term *Gerrymander* is now used throughout the U.S. as synonymous (*sic*) with deception. As, when a man has been swindled out of his rights by a villain, he says he has been *Gerrymandered*.—*Id.*, April 8.

1813 Obituary notice of the *Gerrymander*, who “departed this life in the 14th month of his age.” Coffin with *Gerrymander* effigy. Hymn :

Hark ! from below a croaking sound,  
Mine ears, attend the cry ;  
Ye *Gerrymanders*, view the ground  
Where you must shortly lie.

*Id.*, April 15 : from the *Salem Gazette*.

1813 An official statement of the returns of voters for senators give[s] twenty nine friends of peace, and eleven *gerry-manders*.—*Mass. Spy*, May 12.

1813 The manner in which they have obtained this majority is by a species of *gerrymandering*.—*Id.*, June 2 : from the *Columbian Centinel*.

1814 [The Embargo] was consigned to the tomb of the *Gerry-manders* with much funeral pomp.—*Id.*, May 4.

**Gerrymander—contd.**

- 1816 [They] were among the men who *Gerrymandered* the State.—*Id.*, Feb. 28 : from the *Centinel*.
- 1821 [A painted sign] presents you now General Washington, or President Jefferson, then a Turk or an Indian, or a landscape ; there a griffin, a dragon, the sea-serpent, or *gerrymander*.—Article in *Portsmouth Journal*, dated Naumkeag, July 23 : Buckingham, 'Miscellanies,' p. 48.
- 1842 The claim . . . that Congress may break into our territorial limits, and there "*gerrymander*" our States into just such kind of Congressional districts as may please the fancy of the members of this body from other States, who have never seen our country.—Mr. Kennedy of Indiana in the House of Representatives, April 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 317, App.
- 1842 The apportionment bill would put an end to the *gerrymandering* system for party purposes.—Mr. Kerr of Maryland in the U.S. Senate, June 6 : *id.*, p. 584.
- 1842 The grand *gerrymandering* system of Whiggery has commenced in the [Pennsylvania] senate.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, July 11.
- 1881 In 1812, while Elbridge Gerry was Governor of Massachusetts, the Democratic legislature, in order to secure an increased representation in the State Senate, districted the State in such a way that the shape of the towns [townships] forming such a district in Essex county brought out a territory of regular [irregular ?] outline. This was indicated on a map which Russell, the editor of the 'Continent,' hung in his office. Stuart the painter, observing it, added a head, wings, and claws, and exclaimed, "That will do for a salamander." "*Gerrymander* !" said Russell, and the word became a proverb.—'Mem. Hist. Boston,' iii. 212. (N.E.D.) This account is apparently taken, though not word for word, from Buckingham's 'Specimens of Newspaper Literature,' ii. 91 (Boston, 1850).

**Get off.** To utter, to publish.

- 1849 There is the writing of one who tried to "*get off*," as the boys say, something comic on every occasion.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 187.
- 1853 When we pitched into the editorial business, we thought it was a very small matter to "*get off*" a magazine.—*Id.*, xix. 156.
- 1858 Have you a good set of teeth, which you are willing to show whenever the wit of the company *gets off* a good thing ?—J. G. Holland, 'Titcomb's Letters' (1873), p. 58. (N.E.D.)

**Get religion.**

- 1826 He had often tried to "*get religion*," as the phrase is here ; he had laboured as hard for it as he ever had at rolling logs.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 35.

**Get religion—contd.**

1834 He had, in the popular phrase of the country, "*got religion*."  
—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' ii. 84 (1837).

1837 In one night, sometimes hundreds would be converted, or "*get religion*."—*Knick. Mag.*, ix. 354 (April).

1908 We went home feelin' like we'd ben through a big protracted meetin' and *got religion* over again.—'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 24.

**G'hal.** The feminine of B'HOY, *q.v.*

a.1848 Go it, all ye "*g'hals*," and all ye "b'hoys," as much as you can, while you are young.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 167.

1854 [They] coolly remarked upon my short stature and attenuated figure, and wondered "if that little animal was actually a man, or one of the *g'hals* we read about."—*Knick. Mag.*, xliv. 165 (Aug.).

1857 One of the *g'hals*, who had been to a camp-meeting.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Aug. 1.

**Gibe.** To work with, to work in harmony.

1857 The thread is cut between [the United States] and us [Mormons], and we never will *gybe* again; no, never.—H. C. Kimball, Sept. 20: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 251.

1909 I had to change [the first act] in some places where it didn't *gibe* with the rest.—*St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Jan.

**Gibe.** To warp a boat round.

1791 In *gibing* the boat, she suddenly overset and sunk.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., May 14.

**Gibe.** A sidelong motion; a sidelong blow.

1843 [The river] stretched tranquilly onwards, undisturbed save by the occasional *jibe* of the boom, or lazy creak of the rudder of some craft.—A. E. Silliman, 'Gallop among American Scenery,' p. 5.

1851 After an untold number of stumbles over old windfalls, and *jibes* from the limbs, knots, and protruding boughs of trees, we reached [the log cabin].—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 66 (N.Y.).

**Gig.** A spear for harpooning fish.

1722 At each End of the Canoe stands an Indian, with a *Gig*, or pointed Spear.—R. B., 'History of Virginia,' p. 131. (N.E.D.)

1824 Said the American skipper to his mate, brandishing his *fish-gig* (a harpoon), "Jack, when I strike the Frenchman, you stand by to play him."—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 4.

1851 He hands Jess a *gig*. Now, ses he, *gig* him.—'Adventures of Simon Suggs,' &c., p. 197 (Phila.).

1866 They were prevented from ascending by what appears to have been an ordinary *fish gig*.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 278 (March).

1880 One of our emigrants had brought all the way from Missouri a three-pronged harpoon, called a *gig*.—Peter H. Burnett, 'Recollections,' p. 120.

**Gilderoy's kite, higher than.** A proverbial expression perhaps of Scottish origin. The original Gilderoy would seem to have been a Scot who got into trouble. The Rev. E. Cobham Brewer (*Notes and Queries*, 7 S. v. 357) quotes from an old ballad :—

Of Gilderoy sae fraid they ware,  
They bound him mickle strong,  
Tull Edenburrow they led him thair,  
And on a gallows hong ;  
They hong him high abone the rest,  
He was so trim a boy.

He adds that Gilderoy hung so high, he looked like a kite. [But why "Gilderoy's kite?" ]

1869 The first time [Italy] took her new toy into action, she got it knocked *higher than Gildcroy's kite*.—Mark Twain, 'Innocents Abroad,' chap. xxv.

**Gillite.** See quotation. Obsolete.

1823 Sunday, August 1st. I heard the Rev. Dr. Allison, a judicious *Gillite*. (Note.) Calvinists are here called *Gillites*, or followers of the late Dr. Gill. [This was in the District of Columbia.]—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 119 (Lond.).

**Gin-sling.** A drink composed of gin, lemon, and other ingredients. The invention of it has been attributed to John Collins, a waiter at Limmer's Hotel (now extinct) in London ; but it does not appear that he was exercising his occupation as early as 1800, and the word is no doubt of American origin. See *Notes and Queries*, 6 S. ii. 444, Dec. 4, 1880.

1800 [They] were sitting in a cellar kitchen in Grubbstreet, regaling themselves in drinking *gin sling* and smoking segars.—*Mass. Spy*, July 9.

1802 The men of Newengland pass their evenings by their own firesides. Their breakfasts are not of whiskey julep, nor of *gin sling* ; but of tea and coffee.—*Id.*, Aug. 4 : from the *Newport (R.I.) Mercury*.

1839 Punch, *gin slings*, cocktails, mint julips.—Marryat, 'Diary Amer.,' i. 105. (N.E.D.)

1843 One of the grand general committee on drinking *gin-slings* and segar-smoking.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 44.

1861 A cabin where the wayworn traveler may regale himself with a "brandy smash" or a "*gin sling*."—Letter to *Oregon Argus*, Nov. 2.

**Ginslinger.** 1887, 1889. See N.E.D.

**Girt.** To measure.

1750 This divides into five branches, each equal to a large tree, some of them *girting* round about eight feet.—G. Hughes, 'Barbadoes,' p. 175. (N.E.D.)

1817 It is thought [the snake] will *girt* about three feet round the body, and his sting is about four feet in length.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 20.

**Girt—contd.**

1823 A hog, *girting* six feet four inches, and length nine feet, was shipped for New Orleans.—*Id.*, Nov. 26.

1858 The tree "*girts*" eighteen and a half feet, and spreads over a hundred.—'Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table,' chap. xii. (N.E.D.)

**Girt.** To squeeze. Examples 1400–1895, N.E.D.

1817 Winding his body round both the tiger and the tree [the serpent] *girted* both with all his violence, till the ribs and other bones began to give way.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 29: from the *South Carolina Telescope*.

1830 The chest *girted in* [by a corset] till breath can scarcely be drawn.—*Id.*, Sept. 15: from the *Medico-Chirurgical Review*.

**Give away.** To betray, to surrender.

1862 [The Sergeant said:] Boys, your game is up; Busy Bill *gave it away*.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers' (1884), xii. 272.

1878 N.E.D.

**Give out.** To be exhausted or used up.

1832 Our money *gave out*.—E. C. Wines, 'Two Years and a Half in the Navy,' ii. 52 (Phila.).

1833 Sometimes these valuable companions [house-dogs] *give out* on the road.... The horses of course frequently *give out*.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 44, 45 (Lond., 1835).

1841 Mr. Lumpkin of Georgia wished to state that Mr. Buchanan was mistaken in saying that the gold had *given out* in Georgia. On the contrary, new discoveries were constantly being made.—U.S. Senate, Jan. 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 110, App.

1846 Brown's horse *gave out* entirely to-day, and was left in the road.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I Saw of California,' p. 183 (Lond., 1849).

1856 The torches *gave out*, and the party was left in utter darkness.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 37 (N.Y.).

1856 A new leader took the place of the old man when his breath *gave out*.—Olmsted, 'Slave States,' p. 25. (N.E.D.)

1859 The gold *gave out*, and it strikes me that the necessity for the mint has gone with it.—Mr. Toombs of Georgia, U.S. Senate, Feb. 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1214.

1861 Tea, coffee, and clothing are nearly exhausted, or have, as the American phrase has it, "*given out*."—W. H. Russell, *The Times*, Sept. 24. (N.E.D.)

1888 The table was a subject of study; for when twenty [guests] came, the dishes *gave out*.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 230.

1888 The wood *gave out*, and A. descended for more.—*Id.*, p. 240.

**Given name.** A person's first or baptismal name. Cobbett called this a Scotticism (Bartlett).

1833 Ah, but your chriss'n name; your *given name*?—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 59.

1835 Captain John Cook (such we found was the "*given name*" and patronymic of the male occupant).—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' ii. 189 (Lond.).

1842 Ephraim is my *given name*, Ephraim Barker.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xix. 557 (June).

1848 Half the boys [in Mexico] seem to rejoice in the *nombre* (*given name*) of José-Maria.—Richard McSherry, 'El Puchero,' p. 178 (1850).

1862 "Ef your name's Biglow, an' your *given-name* Hosee," sez he, "it's arter you I came;  
I'm your gret-gran'ther multiplied by three.  
'Biglow Papers,' Second Series, No. 6.

**Glade of hail.** [A very uncommon phrase.]

1806 The *glade of hail* [in Vermont], which was about one mile wide.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 27.

**Glass snake.** A large limbless lizard, *Ophiosaurus ventralis*, with a very brittle tail: mentioned in Mortimer's 'Nat. Hist. of N. Carolina,' 1736. (N.E.D.)

1796 • The *glass snake*.... A small blow with a stick will separate the body, not only at the place struck, but at two or three other places, the muscles being articulated in a singular manner.—Morse, 'Am. Geog.,' i. 221. (N.E.D.)

1797 The *glass snake* has its name from its fragility. This animal is said to be so brittle that it will break into several pieces by a fall; and the pieces are supposed to have the power of uniting again. Mr Catesby mentions a snake in Carolina, which did break into three or four pieces by a fall; but, having been dead for some time, it might thus become more brittle.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 25.

**Globe-trotter.** 1880, 1883, N.E.D.

1909 "I have been in every civilized country on earth," said the *globe-trotter*, "and, would you believe it, I have met only two really intelligent women." "Two!" echoed the beautiful widow in surprise; "why, who was the other?" —*Chicago Daily News*, Feb.

1909 Most *globe-trotters*, in their hurried journey across seas and continents, have no time to bestow on anything outside of the beaten tracks.—*Technical World Magazine*, Feb.

**Glorious Fourth, the.** The Fourth of July.

1827 We did not celebrate the "*Glorious Fourth*" here.—H. W. Longfellow, 'Life' (1891), i. 121. (N.E.D.)

1862 I say, ole boy, it ain't *the Glorious Fourth*;  
You'd oughto larned 'fore this wut talk wuz worth.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 2.

**Gloves, without.** Without apology or ceremony. Ray (ed. 1813) has "To handle without mittens."

1828 The Baltimore Republican *handles* Mr. C[lay] *with gloves off*.—*Richmond Enquirer*, May 20, p. 3/4.

1892 The prophets and practitioners of the naturalistic school . . . are here *handled without gloves*.—*The Nation* (N.Y.), May 5, p. 345/2. (N.E.D.)

**Glover.** A well dressed, affable man.

1854 I have always found [President Franklin Pierce] a very kind and agreeable man,—what the "rounders" in New York would term a "*glover*."—Mr. Mike Walsh of N.Y., House of Repr., Jan. 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1220, Appendix.

**Glow-bug.** A glow-worm or "lightning-bug."

1781 The *Glow-bug* both crawls and flies, and is about half an inch long. These insects fly in the summer evenings, nearly seven feet from the ground, in such multitudes that they afford sufficient light for people to walk by.—Samuel Peters, 'Hist. of Connecticut,' p. 259 (Lond.).

**Go omitted.** Such expressions as "the dog *wants out*" are still common. (See also HAPPEN.)

1784 It is more than probable that he has taken [the two mares] to Redstone, as he *intended out there*, and was heard to say that he wanted two Mares to take with him.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Dec. 14.

**Go for ago.** This is very unusual, though in line with *way for away*, *most for almost*.

1857 A very respectable gentleman in Philadelphia said to me a while *go*, &c.—John Taylor at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 23: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 157.

**Go ahead.** To proceed. Also *go-ahead* as adj., developing into *go-aheadative*, *go-aheadativeness*, &c.

1835 [He] buys land and negroes, and, in the strong phraseology of Crockett, *goes ahead*.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 94.

1836 Now, Jumble, "*go ahead*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ii. 49 (Nov.).

1838 [He] could go backwards like a crab, as well as *ahead* like Crockett.—'Harvardiana,' iv. 235.

1840 Ours are a *going-ahead* sort of people, always on a gallop, and have at all times more things upon their hands than forty times their number could execute.—Mr. Sevier of Arkansas in the U.S. Senate, Feb. 20: *Congressional Globe*, p. 186, Appendix.

1855 A favorable opportunity opens for the natural activity and *go-aheadativeness* of American business men.—*N.Y. Times*, May 17 (Bartlett).

1858 In our opinion, America is a dashing, *go-ahead*, and highly progressive country.—*Philadelphia Press*, July 24 (Bartlett).

1866 A real *go-ahead* sort of a fellow as ever I met with.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 239.



**Go ahead—contd.**

- 1868 *Go ahead* is of American origin, and is used....where the British would say "all right."—'Nat. Encycl.,' i. 618. (N.E.D.)
- 1869 The *go-aheadativeness* of the inhabitants [of Chicago] is only equalled by the *go-aheadativeness* of the buildings.—H. Deedes, 'Ten Months in America,' p. 60. (N.E.D.)

**Go-as-you-please.** Unconfined by rules.

- 1888 Texas was [in 1866] a *go-as-you-please* State, and the lawlessness was terrible....The lives of the newly appointed U.S. officers were threatened daily, and it was an uneasy head that wore the gubernatorial crown.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' pp. 218–19.
- 1890 Most of these long distance matches are now of the *go-as-you-please* class.—*Century Mag.*, p. 207. (N.E.D.)

**Go back of, go behind.** To disregard the writing for the sake of ascertaining the fact. This phrase was in every one's mouth during the Tilden-Hayes controversy of 1876, when the Electoral Commission declined to *go behind* the Louisiana returns.

- 1839 I do not desire to *go behind* these proofs.—Mr. Smith of Maine in the House of Representatives, March 2: *Congressional Globe*, p. 279, App.
- 1839 Gentlemen said that the fraud involved in these returns was so manifest that it was absolutely necessary to *go behind* them.—Mr. Rayner of North Carolina, H. of R., Dec. 18: *id.*, p. 61.
- 1840 [They] would have shaken at the gentleman the Governor's certificate and broad seal, and told him, in his own words, that he could not *go behind* it.—Mr. Starkweather of Ohio, H. of R., Jan. 10: *id.*, p. 70, Appendix.
- 1847 The door-keeper, to adopt a legal phrase, couldn't *go behind* the check.—*Knick Mag.*, xxix. 99 (Jan.).
- 1850 I am of opinion that the Senate had a right to *go behind* the nomination, in order to inquire into the circumstances under which it was made.—Mr. Bradbury of Maine, May 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1002.
- 1890 The public....ought not to be compelled to *go back of* academic titles to find out what they mean.—E. H. Griffin, in *Science*, Feb. 14. (N.E.D.)

\* \* \* See also Appendix XXII.

**Go back on.** To turn against one's former friend or ally.

- 1868  
     Are these Dobbs' Ferry villagers  
     A *going back on* Dobbs?  
     'Twouldn't be more anom'lous  
     If Rome *went back on* Rom'lus.  
                                 *Putnam's Mag.*, p. 21, Jan. (N.E.D.)
- 1870 The newspaper belief that Vanderbilt never "*goes back on*" his friends is not generally assumed as truthful by brokers.—James K. Medbery, 'Men and Mysteries of Wall Street,' p. 159 (Boston).



**Go back on—*contd.***

- 1876 A good many patrons *went back on* the paper this morning, as their silent protest against the swindle.—*N.Y. Mail*, Oct. 21 (Bartlett).
- 1876 [He said] that lawyers would never *go back on* each other.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Dec. 21 (Bartlett).
- 1882 [If any one of these witnesses] should from any cause back out, or, as the saying is, *go back upon* us, our case would fail.—*N.Y. Herald*, March 19.

**Go for.** To be in favour of, to support.

- 1834 No, sir, I *go for* the laws and the Constitution, whether they define the qualifications of the voter, or prescribe the manner in which this right shall be exercised.—Mr. Vanderpoel of N.Y., quoted by Mr. White of Kentucky, House of Repr., Dec. 6, 1839 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 25.
- 1840 I *go for* no such appropriations.—Mr. Hubbard of Alabama, H. of R., May 27 : *id.*, p. 422.
- 1841 I might be induced to *go both for* pre-emption and graduation, provided they are connected with distribution.—Mr. Southard of New Jersey, U.S. Senate, Jan. 16 : *id.*, p. 368, App.
- 1841 They tell you here that they will not *go for* a duty on silks and wines.—Mr. Monroe of N.Y., H. of R., Feb. 3 : *id.*, p. 285, App.
- 1841 Democrats, he knew, would vote for [the Pre-emption bill] like a book. For himself, he *went for* the log cabin men, because they *go for* the country both in war and in peace.—Mr. Reynolds of Illinois, H. of R., Feb. 5 : *id.*, p. 148.
- 1841 If these were Virginia abstractions of which gentlemen spoke, Mr. McClellan of N.Y. *went for* them with more than Eastern idolatry.—H. of R., Aug. 2 : *id.*, p. 177, Appendix.
- 1842 I *go for* the navy, because I am interested in its success and efficiency.—Mr. Black of Georgia, H. of R., May 24 : *id.*, p. 418, App.
- 1842 Sir, I *go for* protection ; yes, sir, full protection for every branch of American labor.—Mr. Russell of Ohio, H. of R., July : *id.*, p. 791, App.
- 1846 I *go for* protecting this land, and every foot of this land, from the footsteps of the invader.—Mr. Hannegan of Indiana, U.S. Senate, Jan. 27 : *id.*, p. 256.
- 1846 [Mr. Adams] told us that he *went for* the policy of the great Frederick in regard to Silesia. He was for taking possession first, and negotiating afterwards.—Mr. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, H. of R., May 13 : *id.*, p. 817.
- 1846 Mr. Andrew Johnson of Tennessee was one of those who *went for* 54° 40' when the question was before this House ; he *went for* it still.—The same, June 20 : *id.*, p. 1011.

**Go for.** To attack. [It is curious that the phrase should bear two opposite meanings.]

1838 I say that it is a gross, rank, palpable fraud. And I *go for* the fraud.—Mr. Roane of Virginia, in the U.S. Senate, April 23 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 312, Appendix.

a.1870 He *went for* that heathen Chinese.—F. Bret Harte.

1888 I *went for* Tom, and got my stolen money back.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 289.

[See also *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. i. 225, 272.]

**Go in for.** To be in favour of.

1849 We *go in for* all the postage reduction President Taylor recommends.—*N. Y. Tribune*, Dec. 25 (Bartlett).

**Go it alone.** To play the game single-handed. A simile taken from the game of euchre.

1855 When crack ! a ball through his frontal bone  
Laid him flat on his back on the hard-fought ground,  
And left Captain Davis to *go it alone*.

*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 335 (April).

**Go it blind.** To act without due consideration.

1846 All I ask of the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. Kennedy] who declared that in the action upon the Texas question "the West *went it blind*"—all that I ask of him is that he will not "*go it blind*" upon Oregon.—Mr. Bedinger of Virginia, House of Repr., Jan. 15 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 120, App.

1846 The Senator from Michigan (Mr. Cass) was satisfied without evidence,—with nothing but newspaper reports. He was willing to "*go it blind*."—Mr. Clayton of Delaware, in the U.S. Senate, May 12 : *id.*, p. 801.

1862 O little city-gals, don't never *go it*  
*Blind* on the word o' newspaper or poet !

'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 6.

1866 But I conclude they 've 'bout made up their mind  
This ain't the fittest time to *go it blind*. *Id.*, No. 11.

1875 At the outset of the war I would not *go it blind*, and rush headlong into the war unprepared.—General Sherman's 'Memoirs,' i. 342 (Bartlett).

**Go it one (or more) better.** To play higher. A phrase taken from the game of poker.

1859 The Democrats have a Pacific Railroad in their platform, and it is no harm for you to take one on board. As this seems to be a game for the Presidency, and a brag game at that, I think the American party, if they have a platform at all, ought to *go two better*, and go in for building all three roads.—Mr. Thompson of Kentucky, U.S. Senate, Feb. 16 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1058.

1878 As soon as he conceited what was up, he gathered a dornick, and was just drawin' back to send the strange dog where there's no fleas, when the stranger saw him, and *went one better*.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 185.

**Go it one (or more) better—contd.**

- 1909 Dickens satirized [the high falutin' style of talk], Proctor Knott made himself famous by *going it several better*, but the thing has not been killed.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 25.
- 1910 The incident illustrates once more the way in which the battleship obsession still maintains its hold. Argentina has to see the Brazilian navy and *go it one or two better*.—*Id.*, Feb. 28.

**Go off the handle. To die.**

- 1872 My old gentleman means to be Mayor or Governor or President or something or other before he *goes off the handle*, you'd better b'lieve.—O. W. Holmes, 'Poet at the Breakfast-Table,' chap. x. (N.E.D.)

\*.\* See also FLY OFF THE HANDLE.

**Go the whole hog. To proceed thoroughly. The phrase became current in the Andrew Jackson campaign.**

- 1821 "*Going for the whole.*" Heading of a paragraph on "a new non-importation system."—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 10.
- 1828 [Andrew Jackson] will either go with the party, as they say in New York, or go "*the whole hog*," as it is phrased elsewhere, making all the places he can for his friends, and shaking the rod of terror at his opponents;—or else he will....be President upon his own strength.—Daniel Webster, January: 'Life,' i. 337 (1870).
- 1829 From the manner in which the President has exercised his power thus far, I am inclined to think that he will go "*the whole hog*."—Lorenzo Hoyt to Jesse Hoyt, March 17: 'Lives of Butler and Hoyt,' by W. L. Mackenzie, p. 49 (Boston, 1845).
- 1829 In a town not forty miles from Hallowell, there lived a decent but zealous wight, who was famous for "*going the whole hog*" on the federal side.—*Mass. Spy*, May 10: from the *Evening Chronicle*.
- 1829 The larger serpent had swallowed the better half of his victim, and would, it is supposed, have "*gone the whole hog*," had not some mischievous biped nabb'd him.—*Mass. Spy*, July 1: from the *Cambridge (O.) Chronicle*.
- 1829 *Going the Whole Hog.* A black fellow, among other perquisites, was allowed the sweepings of the store. He carried off, among the sweepings, a live hog which had been left there by a friend of the proprietor.—*Mass. Spy*, July 22: from the *Boston-Gazette*.
- 1830 I reckon Squire Lawrie may *go the whole hog* with her.—Galt, 'Lawrie Todd' (1849), ii. 43. (N.E.D.)
- 1830 Mr. Broadhead is now a member of Congress, and "*goes the whole*" for Jackson.—*Mass. Spy*, June 9: from the *Boston Journal*.
- 1830 The cook-shops [in Canton] are uniformly kept by Jackson men, or at least they "*go the whole hog*" in all of them.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 91.

**Go the whole hog—contd.**

- 1830 As ladies now wear pantaloons and boots, I see no reason why they should not "*go the whole hog*," and mount the hat and swallow-tailed coat likewise.—*Id.*, p. 186.
- 1833 But didn't I *go the whole animal*? . . . . I *went the whole hog* for Jackson.—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' pp. 40, 167.
- 1833 T. Hamilton quotes a placard, "Jackson for ever. *Go the whole hog!*" He adds: The expression, I am told, is of Virginian origin. In that state, when a butcher kills a pig, it is usual to demand of each customer, whether he will "*go the whole hog*."—'Men and Manners in America,' i. 17-18.
- 1833 In the western country, to use his own phrase, [Mr. Stuart] "*goes the whole hog*," that is, he finds everything savage, mean, and contemptible.—*Knicker. Mag.*, ii. 295.
- 1834 If that ain't what I call *goin the whole cretur*.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 188 (N.Y.).
- 1835 The Speaker took Frank Thomas of Maryland, an anti-bank *whole-hog* Jackson man, and made him chairman.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 153 (Phila.).
- 1836 I *go the whole*, sir. Intemperance is one of the greatest evils of our land.—*The Jeffersonian* (Albany), June 9, p. 136.
- 1836 May disgrace follow my career in Texas, if I wouldn't have become a *whole hog Jackson man* upon the spot.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 41 (Phila.).
- 1837 The Committee on Public Buildings is an entire *whole-hog* modern Whig committee. . . . Before the end of the present session he will come out a healthy, sound, and energetic *whole-hog* Jackson Van Buren anti-bank Democrat, from head to heels.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., Dec. 18: *Cong. Globe*, pp. 47-48, App.
- 1839 I was determined to *go the hull figure*, and see all.—Major Jack on board a Whaler, in the *Havana* (N.Y.) *Republican*, Aug. 21.
- 1839 This [Reading] Room was established by a *whole-hog* Jackson Van Buren man.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, Sept. 18.
- 1840 I can tell you that he *goes the whole figure* against rotation.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 180.
- 1840 Then of course you mean to *go the whole quadruped*.—'Valentine Vox,' chap. xlii.
- 1841 We have heard that [General Harrison] *goes the whole* for the pre-emption principle.—Mr. Buchanan of Pennsylvania, U.S. Senate, Jan. 28: *Cong. Globe*, p. 201, App.
- 1841 [Half measures are] always a good deal more difficult than *going the whole hog*.—'The Church Committee,' p. 110 (Lond.).
- 1842 The Quaker, being over rigidly denied the pigments, was the very man to *go the whole hogments*.—T. Hood, 'Comic Annual,' p. 171.

**Go the whole hog—contd.**

- 1842 *Going the entire swine.* A colored man, being employed to take home a hog for an individual, put it in his pocket, i.e. sold it and pocketed the proceeds.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Jan. 15.
- 1842 The friends of Henry Clay are to have a jollification in Kentucky on the 9th of June. They will "*go the whole hog*," and furnish brandy and hard cider after an unheard of fashion.—*Id.*, May 21.
- 1843 "*Going the Whole Figure.*"—Heading of one of Cornelius Mathews's papers, ii. 262.
- 1844 We go "*whole hog*" for Jeffersonian democracy.—*The Prophet* (Mormon), N.Y., Sept. 14.
- 1847 I *go the whole hog, or none*, upon all occasions, in carrying out the principles of the democratic creed.—Mr. Wentworth of Ill., House of Repr., Feb. 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 312.
- 1848 There's sea varmint enough in all conscience. We *go the hull shoat* with them.—W. E. Burton's 'Waggeries,' p. 22.
- a.1849 You *go the whole hog* for democratic or republican principles.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 245.
- 1850 To the Polls! To the Polls! 'tis our duty commands; *The whole hog or none*, is the way the case stands.  
*Frontier Guardian* (Mormon), Oct. 2.
- 1854 When it comes to voting, they are in the habit of *going the whole hog* for the party, regardless of consequences.—*Weekly Oregonian*, July 15.

**Go through** To plunder thoroughly.

- 1867 He told them his business, but they took him to be an impostor and spy; and, acting upon that supposition, they *went through* him.—J. M. Crawford, 'Mosby and his Men,' p. 190.
- 1869 They said, Let us *go through* him. And they *went through* him.—Mark Twain, 'New Pilgrim's Progress,' chap. ix.
- 1887 These [cow-boys] had lately "*gone through*" the coaches with great regularity.—F. Francis, Jun., 'Saddle and Mocassin,' p. 71. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 [They] *went through* him before the police could reach the spot.—*Baltimore Sun*, n.d. (Farmer).

**Go to grass.** To succumb. In the imperative, equivalent to "Go to Jericho."

- a.1625 Away, good Sampson; you *go to grass* else instantly.—Beaumont and Fletcher, 'Little Fr. Lawyer.' (N.E.D.)
- 1807 Now he will have to *go to grass*, as the saying is.—*The Balance*, Feb. 17, p. 51.
- 1848 [He said] that he might *go to grass* with his old canoe, for he didn't think it would be much of a shower anyhow.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 95. (N.E.D.)
- 1853 If fortune frowns, tell her to *go to grass*.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, April 16.
- 1857 Oh! *go to grass* with your fish stories!—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 588 (Dec.).
- 1866 "Oh, *go to grass*," said Bill; "I don't want none of your jokes."—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 291.

**Go under.** To give up ; sometimes to die.

- 1849 Five of us *went under*.—Ruxton, 'Life in the Far West,' p. 13. (N.E.D.)  
 1888 In all our vicissitudes, I had never before seen the General *go under* for an instant.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 280.  
 1888 Whether Jim lived or had *gone under*.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, March (Farmer).

**Goad stick.** A goad.

- 1825 I fetches it a rap with my *goard stick*.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 159.  
 1851 The teamster now arranges every ox in the most advantageous position, passing through several evolutions with his *goad stick*.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 97 (N.Y.).  
 1866 A small man, holding a *goad stick* in his hand.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 242.

**Goatee.** A chin-tuft.

- 1847 [He] has raised a queer little amber-colored *goatee*.—Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 107 (Phila.).  
 1856 [The Americans] also indulge in eccentricities of appearance in the shape of beards and imperials, not to speak of the "*goatee*."—Miss Bird, 'An Englishwoman in America,' p. 366. (N.E.D.)  
 [The *Punch* cartoon, Nov. 10, 1860, represents the then Prince of Wales, on his return from America, as wearing a goatee.]

**Go-backs.** Those who returned with an evil report of the western country.

- 1859 Farewell to the "*gobacks*"; they have had their day, and soon will be forgotten.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Cherry Creek, Kas. Terr., June 18.

**Gobble up.** To capture.

- 1861 Nearly 400 prisoners were *gobbled up* after the fight, and any quantity of ammunition and provisions.—*Chicago Evening Post*, July. (Century Dict. See also the N.E.D.)

**Gobbler.** A turkey-cock.

- 1800 But how, alas ! they were deceiv'd,  
 To find poor *gobble* grown much worse.  
 The Turkey-cock and Tractors, *Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, Dec. 20.  
 1834 I thought an old *gobbler* would have twisted his head off.—*Knick. Mag.*, iii. 32 (Jan.).  
 1836 They seemed to me about the size of a big Christmas *turkey gobbler*.—'A Quarter Race in Kentucky,' p. 17 (1846).  
 1843 I never see an old *gobbler* with his gorget, that I don't think of a kernel of a marchin' regiment.—Haliburton, 'The Attaché,' i. 197. (N.E.D.)

**Gobbler—contd.**

- 1845 "I am going to shoot a *gobbler* that I hear on the hill side," said Jim. "I hear no turkey," replied Hughes.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' ii. 11.
- 1847 Flour doins an' chicken fixins, an' four uncommon fattest big *gobblers* rosted I ever seed.—'Billy Warwick's Wedding,' p. 104 (Phila.).
- 1847 Not a *turkey-gobbler* or fat goose is sacrificed in the course of the year, but she contrives to find it out.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xii. 232.
- 1852 We marked the unconscious *gobblers* for destruction.—*Id.*, xvii. 140.
- α.1853 Woman is as tender as a chicken, and as tough as an old *gobbler*.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 42.
- 1861 Ole massa had to raise some money somehow, so he tole me to catch the big *gobbler*, an' tote um down to Washington, an' see wot um would fotch.—F. L. Olmsted, 'Cotton Kingdom,' i. 35 (Lond.).
- 1880 The hens and *gobblers* go in separate flocks in winter, and pair in spring.—Peter H. Burnett, 'Recollections,' p. 16.
- α.1890 See Appendix, XX.

**Godlike, The.** An epithet applied to Daniel Webster.

- 1846 A sermon was preached in favor of *the Godlike*; of the position he has taken; and against the party that is opposed to him.—Mr. Sawyer of Ohio, House of Repr., May 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 807.
- 1846 [Mr. Alexander H. Stephens] has repeated lines of verse, having for their object eulogy of Mr. Webster, and denunciation of those who have ventured to express their belief that he is not "*god-like*." . . . If the countenance of the "*God-like*" has been veiled by mists, I trust, &c.—Mr. Yancey of Alabama, the same, June 16: *id.*, p. 951, Appendix.
- 1850 The central organ (the Washington Union) commenced angling for the *godlike* Senator. The hook was baited with the highest honor.—Mr. Cleveland of Conn., the same, April 19: *id.*, p. 509, App.
- 1850 We have thrown up our caps and shouted glory to "the *God-like*."—Mr. Savage of Tenn., the same, May 13: *id.*, p. 558, App.

**Goliah of Connecticut, The.** See quotation.

- 1800 Long John Allen, commonly called *the Goliah of Connecticut*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Sept. 22.

**Gondalo, Gundalo.** See CUPALO.



**Gone coon, gone sucker, &c.** A person or thing that is "played out" or "used up."

- 1598 Truly I am but a *gone man* (*Equidem perii*).—Bernard's 'Terence' (1607), p. 303. (N.E.D.)
- 1830 If something isn't done pretty soon, it'll be *gone goose* with us.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 44 (1860).
- 1830 You are a *gone goose*, friend, said another.—*Mass. Spy*, July 7.
- 1840 I was afeared you were a *gone coon*.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Greyslaer,' iii. 221 (Lond.).
- 1841 I tell'd 'em you and the boy was *gone suckers*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xvii. 400 (May).
- 1843 It's a *gone ninepin*, that head o' his.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 279.
- 1844 It was conceded by all that the *Esperanza*, for such was the name of the slaver, was a *gone case*.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 14 (Phila.).
- 1845 The acquisition of Canada....is put down on all sides as a *gone coon*.—Mr. Giddings of Ohio in Congress (Farmer).
- 1845 I tell you, my friend, I'm a *gone coon*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxv. 104 (Feb.).
- 1845 I thought old Time was about to kick the bucket, and I knowed, if he did, I was a *gone sucker*.—*St. Louis Reveille*, Aug. 4.
- 1848 If I hadn't hollered jist as I did, I'd been a *gone Jona*, sure enough.—'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 161.
- 1851 I feared that I should lose my way, and then I knew I was a *gone sucker*.—'An Arkansas Doctor,' p. 109 (Phila.).
- 1853 He had pretty much made up his mind he were a *gone coon*.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 135.
- 1854 [When the King of Terrors] lays his relentless paws upon a pack of you, you are *gone coons*.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 285.
- 1856 That he was a *gone coon*, was his natural reflection.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 435 (N.Y.).
- 1866 That house is a *gone goose* [in the flood], says Uncle Major, says he.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 329.

**Gone up.** See quotation.

- 1866 *Gone up*, in the slang of Denver, means gone up a tree,—that is to say a cotton-tree,—by which is meant a particular cotton-tree growing on the town creek. In plain English, the man is said to have been hung.—W. H. Dixon, 'New America,' chap. xi.

**Goner.** A person or thing in a hopeless case; almost or quite extinguished or destroyed.

- 1847 The old year is not quite a *goner*.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 32.
- 1854 Let us tie him up, or he is a *goner*.—*Weekly Oregonian*, June 24.



**Goner**—*contd.*

1856 My heart leaped into my gullet the minute I saw him. I felt down in the mouth, for I knew I was a *goner*.—*Id.*, Sept. 27.

1856 No matter, howbeit, for legends like these  
Of the "*goners*" erst met here for frolic or fray.  
*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 136 (Feb.).

1857 He exclaimed, "She is a *goner*!" There to be sure she lay, perfectly dead.—Thoreau, 'Maine Woods,' p. 365. (N.E.D.)

1857 Two or three times I made up my mind that I was a *goner*.—S. H. Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 61.

1857 Had there been even a light breeze, the town [of Oroville] would have gone, sure. Many thought it was a *goner* anyhow.—*San Francisco Call*, April 10.

1859 Is there an attorney in the company? If there be, send him here, or I'm a *goner*.—*Knick. Mag.*, liii. 538 (May).

**Goney, gonus.** A simpleton. The word appears as *Gonnie*, a. 1580: N.E.D.

1837-40. That are Sheriff was a *goney*.—Haliburton, 'The Clock-maker,' p. 139. (N.E.D.)

1843 How the *goney* swallowed it all.—'Sam Slick in England,' chap. xxi.

a.1855 A stupid fellow, a dolt, a boot-jack, an ignoramus, is here called a *gonus*.—*Dartmouth Mag.*, iv. 116 (Hall's 'College Words').

**Good** used for *well*. (See also FEEL GOOD.)

1838 We will behave. We will behave *good*.—Caroline Gillman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 32 (N.Y.).

[1846 A man might love his country *so bad* as to be willing to cut the throats of one half of the American citizens.—Mr. Chipman of Mich., House of Repr., May 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 838.]

1855 He put us into another sieve, and sifted us *good*.—George A. Smith at the Mormon Tabernacle, March 18: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 216.

**Good as pie.** Exceptionally good.

1847 Let her alone, and in five minutes the storm will be over, and she *as good as pie* again. — Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 21.

1866 [A girl is occasionally said to be] *as good as pie*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxxi. 228.

1878 Say, Fred Park, we've been awful good, *good as pie*, hain't we?—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' chap. xvii.

**Good enough Morgans.** Fictions designed to serve a temporary use: with allusion to the Anti-masonic outbreak of 1826.

1856 You will have victims who can answer as "*good enough Morgans*" at least until after the election.—Mr. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, U.S. Senate, Aug. 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 53.

**Good time, a.** A time of enjoyment ; sometimes of revelry.

- 1843 At the first toot of the tin horn, we assembled in expectation of a "*good time*."—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 150.
- 1849 "*A time*" is defined as "A spree, a row, an occasion, who's afraid?"—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 144.
- 1856 Are students wholly given up to flirting, and having what they call *good times*?—*Id.*, xxii. 78.
- 1864 Your children never had what children call "*a good time*."—J. G. Holland, 'Letters to the Joneses,' p. 39.
- 1864 If you could be permitted to have what you call "*a good time*."—*Id.*, p. 258.
- 1874 Meg found it a relief to know that John was having a *good time*.—Louisa M. Alcott, 'Little Wives,' chap. xv.

**Goods, the.** The prize ; the thing bargained for ; the *quid pro quo* ; political patronage.

- 1852 I'm going to take three chances at the match, and if I win *the goods*, I'll give them to you.—C. H. Wiley, 'Life in the South,' p. 42 (Phila.).
- 1911 [Senator Grady at Albany said yesterday:] "We've got you where we want you now, and you're going to yield the stolen *goods*." The *goods* in question were the office of Commissioner of Jurors in Kings County, with the proper number of subordinate offices attached. . . . In the vocabulary of practical politicians, "*the goods*" is likely to take an honored place besides the happiest *bons-mots* of Plunkett, Devery, and Tim Sullivan.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, June 15.
- 1911 New York does not want to buy a charter "if and when" ; she desires a look at the actual *goods*, so that she may know exactly what she is getting.—*Id.*, Sept. 18.

**Goody.** A care-taker of rooms at college.

- 1859 The late Miss M., a "*Goody*," so called, or sweeper, . . . was positive on the subject.—'Professor at the Breakfast-Table,' chap. viii.

**Goody.** An insipid, harmless person.

- 1878 [The man of weak will] although he be a good man,—especially if he be a "*goody*," a very different thing,—will quail.—Joseph Cook on 'Conscience,' p. 25. (N.E.D.)

**Goose-trap.** A swindle. The N.E.D. gives an example (1610) meaning a verbal trick.

- 1799 The gulls and *goose-traps* that have been sported for some time past all come from the shop in which the Washington Lottery wheels remain undrawn, and where a new *goose-trap*, the Amuskeag canal, was some time since hammered out.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Jan. 31.

**Gopher.** The pouched rat ; also a ground squirrel.

- 1812 The *Gopher* lives underground, in the prairies, and is also found east of the Mississippi.—Brackenridge, 'Views of Louisiana,' p. 58. (N.E.D.)
- 1835 Like a real *Gopher* [Mr. Van Buren] works more under than above ground.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 172 (Phila.).
- 1839 I observed a dead *gopher* (*Diplostoma*)—a small animal about the size of a rat, with large external cheek pouches.—J. K. Townsend, 'Narrative,' p. 59 (Phila.).
- 1853 Out popped the little *gopher*, that finished piece of stripe and check, that miner, who digs deep in the ground.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 369 (Oct.).
- 1855 The *gopher* is known in some localities as the camas rat, taking its name from a plant which is its favorite food. It lives beneath the surface of the earth, and throws up in an incredible short time an immense amount of dirt.—*Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, Kas., May 19.
- 1858 Emigrants are a sort of cross between a ground-hog and a *gopher*, and are very hard on grass.—*Knick. Mag.*, li. 439 (April).

**Gopher.** A species of land-turtle.

- 1791 The dens, or caverns, dug in the sand hills by the great land-tortoise, called here *Gopher*, present a singular appearance.—W. Bartram, 'Carolina,' p. 18. (N.E.D.)
- 1812 This name is also given to a species of terrapin.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Louisiana,' p. 58 (1814).
- 1827 The *Gopher* is a very peculiar animal. It delights in black jack ridges, which are easily penetrated with its burrows. . . . They are a harmless animal of the turtle species.—John L. Williams, 'View of West Florida,' p. 27 (Phila.).
- 1836 A huge land-turtle, called a "*gopher*," once well nigh killed me.—*Knick. Mag.*, viii. 277 (Sept.).
- 1840 The fish, the *gofer*, the turkey, and the deer, which [the Indians] know where to find, and how to kill, are their meat.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., March 26 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 278, App.
- 1841 There is an animal called a "*gopher*," of the terrapin tribe, with a shovel in the fore part of his shell, with which he digs deep in the sandy lands of the South, and hides himself from his enemies.—Mr. Hubbard of Alabama, H. of R. : *id.*, p. 395, App.

**Gopher.** A resident of Minnesota.

- 1873 In May, 1859, I first became a "*Gopher*,"—practical Western title of the Minnesotians.—J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 706 (Phila., &c.).

**Gore.** A narrow triangular piece of land. The word goes back to the Low Latin *gora* : Radulfus tenet unam goram terræ, 13th c., N.E.D. See also other notes in the same.

- 1799 The lands called "*The Gore*" in New York depend on the same principles as our Luzerne lands.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Dec. 2.
- 1887 What New Englanders call a "*gore*,"—a triangular strip of land that gets left out somehow when the towns [townships] are surveyed.—G. W. Sears. (N.E.D.)

**Goss.** A corruption of Cos or Coss. Not noticed in the dictionaries.

1773 John Adams advertises "Green and White Coss" (Cos lettuce seed).—*Boston Evening Post*, March 22.

1774 Susannah Renken sells Garden seeds, including "Early frame, white goss, early green goss, large green goss, bloody goss, Aleppo goss, &c."—*Boston Evening Post*, April 4.

1774 Ebenezer Oliver sells "best Head Lettuce, green and white Coss ditto."—The same.

1774 Elizabeth Greenleaf, "green and white Goss."—The same.

1774 Elizab. Clark and Nowell, "Green and white goss Cabbage [seeds]."—*Id.*, April 11.

**Goss, to give one.** To scold.

1851 The old man will *give me goss* when I go back. — 'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 99.

1852 Cuss me if I didn't *give him pertiklar goss*.—James Weir, 'Simon Kenton,' p. 166 (Phila.).

**Gotham.** New York. **Gothamite.** A New Yorker. A correspondent of *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. v. 288, traces this to *Salmagundi*, 1809; but it is earlier. As to the older Gotham, see *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. vi. 85, 137.

1800 Our wise *Gothamite* Editors declare that it cannot be true that the French have gained a victory over the Austrians. —*The Aurora*, Phila., June 6.

1806 The *Man of Gotham*, who prints the Freeman's Journal, won't credit the Appointment.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Intelligencer*, May 6: from the *Republican Argus*.

1810 A day was appointed, when all the good citizens of the wonder loving city of *Gotham* were invited to the blowing up. [Alluding to the torpedo experiments.]—*Mass. Spy*, May 2.

1824 An honest man stopped at a tavern in *Gotham* with a load of pork for sale.—*The Microscope*, Albany, Feb. 21.

1824 You will not honor *Gotham* with your company another winter, we presume.—*Id.*, April 17, p. 22/3.

1824 One of the most frequent subjects of complaint in this our goodly city of *North Gotham* is the extreme filthiness of our streets. [We must make a change,] or poor old *North Gotham* will have to change her sober and venerable name for the shocking one [of skunk's paradise.]—*Id.*, May 22.

\*.\* The 1824 references are to Albany, N.Y.

1834 Some of the boasted parks, groves, and gardens of these hospitable *Gothamites*.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 177.

1836 The blood thirsty *Gothamites* are now waging a war of extermination against the canine race.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, May 31.

**Gotham—contd.**

- 1836 Our "Philadelphia loafer" goes to *Gotham*, to put to rights the sixes and sevens into which *Gotham's* genius had put *Gotham's* post-office; and he was sent on this errand by Amos Kendall. Now Amos has an eye like a hawk, and a nose like a blood hound, and keeps a sharp look out upon *Gotham*.—*Id.*, July 14.
- 1836 An Albany or Newark dog is as well worth fifty cents, if brought to *Gotham's* authorities, as if actually killed in *Gotham's* streets.... We understand that dog's flesh is quite a luxury in *Gotham* market.—*Id.*, Aug. 5.
- 1837 We say New York, because among the active, enterprising, driving, shoving, pushing, pulling, scrambling *Gothamites* you will find one thousand times more talent in the newspapers than you will in any other of our cities.—*Id.*, Feb. 3.
- 1840 Col. Johnson was in New York, drinking juleps at Delmonico's. He was warmly received by the excitable *Gothamites*.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, July 22.
- 1841 We of *Gotham* claim, &c.—*Knick. Mag.*, xviii. 566 (Dec.).
- 1842 The Yankees [of Boston] are determined to keep a stiff upper lip with the *Gothamites*.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Jan. 26.
- 1842 Enterprising urchins fairly "disintegrate their linen" in their anxiety to supply *Gotham* with Bulwer's Zanonis.—*Id.*, April 6.
- 1842 Captain Du Solle is rowing us of *Gotham* up Salt Creek, for the edification of the broad brims of the City of Brotherly Love.—*Id.*, April 11.
- 1842 [Mr. Charles Dickens] is to leave New York in June for England. Will the *Gothamites* take a lock of his hair for the Museum, before he sails for home?—*Id.*, April 25.
- 1842 Accompaniments of salad, or, as we *Gothamites* facetiously term them, trimmings.—*Knick. Mag.*, xx. 227 (Sept.).
- 1845 One of the most ridiculous propositions in the world is being treated seriously in the New York papers. It is gravely proposed to make a second story street in Broadway,—*id est*, to erect iron pillars at the curbstone, and on them build a covered railway for cars, as a substitute for the omnibuses that now vex that main artery of *Gotham*.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' i. 165.
- a.1848 Ye *Men of Gotham*! What a pretty looking nest of varmints ye are, taken in a heap, altogether!—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 182.
- 1848 In a few hours more I will be in the great *Gotham*.—'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 106.
- 1849 An ingenious poem on "*Gotham*" was read before certain societies of Columbia College.—See *Knick. Mag.*, xxxiv. 516-522.
- 1851 Broadway is the great fashionable promenade of *Gotham*.—Joel H. Ross, 'What I saw in N.Y.,' p. 164 (Auburn, N.Y.).

**Go-to-meeting clothes** ; also **Sunday** ditto. One's best clothes.

- 1825 His "*go-to-meetin*" coat, as they call that, in America, which every farmer wears on training days and Sabbath days.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 148.
- 1825 Walter, unhappily for him, was rigged out in all his *go-to-meetin*' finery.—*Id.*, ii. 45.
- 1835 One of those blue-noses, with his *go-to-meetin clothes* on.—Haliburton, 'The Clockmaker,' I. ix. (N.E.D.)
- 1840 [She feared] that the same calico gown would always be her "*go-to-meeting dress*."—'Lowell Offering,' i. 2.
- 1840 Over the chest hung the *go-to meeting* hats and bonnets, &c.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 27.
- 1848 [The devil] suggested to him the idea of having a ride in the "*go-to meetin*" sleigh.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 77.
- 1848 Thar's a sort of starchy *Sunday-go-to-meetin* look about this part of [Boston] that I don't like.—'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 129.
- 1850 She tuk off her shoe, and the way a number ten *go-to-meetin*' brogan commenced givin' a hoss particular Moses were a caution to hoss-flesh.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 52 (Phila.).
- 1850 The girls, you may be sure, had on their "*go-to-meeting*" clothes.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxv. 24 (Jan.).
- 1851 I pulled off my ole *Sunday-go-to-meetin*' coat, an slammed it down on er stump.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 151.
- 1854 He said they were the most dry and unsociable set of people he had ever seen, when they had got on their *Sunday-go-to meeting* faces.—*Knick. Mag*, xliii. 650 (June).

**Gotten.** Archaic in England, but common in the U.S. It has not, however, driven out the participle *got*. Examples of both are given.

- 1769 Any person who has *got* a good House and Farm.—Advt., *Boston Evening Post*, Oct. 2.
- 1790 The superfluous use of the word *got* (A man has *got* a horse) is commented on in the *American Mercury*: see *Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Aug. 21.
- 1797 The fire was *got* under without further injury.—*Id.*, Jan. 23.
- 1816 "What have you *got*?" "Got home, and *got* a glorious peace."—*Boston Messenger*, May 2: from the *Virginia Patriot*.
- 1843 This is no Hindoo hunter's hut, *got up* for effect in an amphitheatre.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 217.

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- 1796 You would have stood a chance to have *gotten* eighty pieces of silver for it.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., July 5.
- 1799 Robert, said my friend, I see you have once more *gotten* on your hobby horse.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Nov. 30.
- 1813 When he had *gotten* opposite the house.—*Mass Spy*, March 17.
- 1817 She perceived [the bear] had already *gotten* the heifer upon the ground.—*Id.*, Nov. 12.

**Gotten**—*contd.*

- 1818 As the weather has been dry, hay has been *gotten* early, and without being wet.—*Id.*, Oct. 14.
- 182 He hastened to appear at the place of recitation; but alas! the lesson was not *gotten*.—*Id.*, Aug. 5: from the *Essex Register*.
- 1842 If it had been a man, not a penny would he have *gotten* from me; (or *got*; both are good grammar).—*Knick. Mag.*, xix. 50 (Jan.).
- 1842 The lady and the midshipman had *gotten* comfortably fixed in the boarding-house.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, April 19.
- 1842 The *Sun* and [the] *Herald* have both *gotten out* likenesses of him.—*Id.*, June 18.
- 1842 The *Arena* is *gotten* very naughty.—*Id.*, June 18.
- 1842 Mr. Arnold of Tennessee said that an attempt was making to kick the bill out of the House before it had fairly *gotten* into the House.—House of Repr., Aug. -: *Cong. Globe*, p. 775, App.
- 1853 They have *gotten up* in Boston the greatest "Yankee notion" of a steamer that we ever heard of.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Feb 4.
- 1856 What does he want, and how is he to be *gotten rid of*?—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 44 (Jan.).
- 1856 Gauntlets *gotten* at Stewart's for twelve shillings, and cheap at five dollars.—*Id.*, xlvii. 428 (April).
- 1868 I asked the first person I met if he thought a singing school could be *gotten up* in Newport.—Sol. Smith's 'Autobiography,' p. 24.
- 1909 We may assume that 2,000 words may be *gotten* through in a ten-minutes' session by the ordinary reader.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 18.

**Gouge.** To squeeze out an opponent's eye with one's thumb and finger. This brutal practice appears to have been unknown in New England, but to have been practised considerably by the rougher sort of frontiersmen, and in early days along the Mississippi.

- [1775 This event may give rise to some malevolent pen to write that many of the killed and wounded at Lexington were not only scalped, but had their eyes forced out of the sockets by the fanatics of New England: not one was so treated, either there or at Concord.—W. Gordon, 'Hist. of the Am. Revol.' (Lond., 1788), i. 480.]
- 1776 A soldier, who had been slightly wounded, appeared with his eyes torn out of their sockets, by the barbarous habit of GOOGING, a word and practice peculiar to the Americans.—'The Rights of Great Britain Asserted,' p. 67 of the Philadelphia reprint.
- 1787 A paper, "On the practice of *Gouging*," appeared in the *American Museum* for May, i. 471-2.



**Gouge—contd.**

- 1790 North Carolinians now appear,  
West State of Franklin in the rear,  
Demanding Congress now should settle  
In words, with *Gougers*, Creeks, and cattle.  
News-boys' Address, *Gazette of the U.S.*, N.Y., Jan. 13.  
[The allusion is to suggestions for the removal of the national capital.]
- 1795 [They] got him down, cut off his ears and nose, and *gouged* his eyes, and otherwise bruised him. [This was at Trenton, N.J.]—*Id.*, Phila., April 8.
- 1796 Brave Abraham, despising railleries,  
In presence of the House and Galleries,  
Dar'd tell them all, in valiant trim,  
That *gouging* Gunn had challenged him.  
*Id.*, May 10. ["Abraham" is Abraham Baldwin.]
- 1796 In their common affrays they *gouge* and commit other barbarities.—T. Twining, 'Travels in America' (1894), p. 91. (N.E.D.)
- 1797 [The Georgians] can keep Negro slaves, race horses, *gouge out eyes*,....and be honored in the land.—*Mass. Spy*, July 12.
- 1800 McBirnie....*gouged his eye*.—Addison's 'Reports,' p. 29. (N.E.D.)
- 1801 Here's hunting of fleas (*sic*), cracking of lice, cutting of cards and cutting wens, sticking and *gouging*, and a chance of being frightened all the way to Hockhocking on the Green Verge.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, Jan. 17.
- 1801 The Englishman, who was superior to our Sampson in the art of boxing, knocked him down three times, and the last time twisted his fingers into his hair, to *gouge* him.—*The Intelligencer*, Lancaster, Pa., Sept. 2. [This item, "From a Boston paper," was reprinted at Salem, Worcester, and many other places.]
- 1805 The angel of truth never would thus rail at our democratic members, calling this a flatterer of the people, that a gambler, and the other a *gouger*.—*Salem (Mass.) Register*, Jan. 29.
- 1805 [He had been] severely whipped with a cowskin, and his eyes apparently *gouged* almost out.—News from Lexington, Ky., in the *Balt. Evening Post*, April 2, p. 2/4.
- 1807 The Major pushed his arguments home, with a blow on Matthews's mouth, who on his part would have *gouged* him if he could.—*The Balance*, April 21, p. 128.
- 1809 A gigantic, gunpowder race of men, who lived on hoe cakes and bacon, drank mint juleps and apple toddy, and were exceedingly expert at boxing, biting, *gouging*, tar and feathering, and a variety of other athletic accomplishments, which they had borrowed from their cousins german and prototypes, the Virginians.—W. Irving, 'History of New York,' i. 239 (1812).



**Gouge**—*contd.*

- 1810 Their hands, teeth, knees, head, and feet are their weapons, not only boxing with their fists, but also tearing, kicking, scratching, biting, *gouging each others eyes out* by a dexterous use of a thumb and finger, and doing their utmost to kill each other, even when rolling over one another on the ground.—F. Cuming, 'Tour,' p. 118.  
[These were the backwoodsmen on the Ohio frontier. The editor adds, in an apologetic foot-note, that the description should have been confined to a few persons. "Nor can we believe (he adds) even the more profligate among the class here spoken of would purposely meet to fight, to *gouge*, and to tear each other's flesh in the manner described; but that fighting, *gouging*, &c., might be the consequence of such meetings, we have little doubt."]
- 1816 He would not take half a dollar I offered him for a bowl of milk, but actually looked as if he would *gouge* me when I insisted on it.—James K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' ii. 9 (N.Y., 1817).
- a.1820 In most cases both parties were severely bruised, bitten, and *gouged*, and would be weeks in recovering. It was a brutal, but not fatal mode of combat. [This was in Missouri.]—Peter H. Burnett, 'Recollections,' p. 19.
- 1821 *Gouging*, familiarly attributed to us by some of your writers, is as absolutely unknown in New England as in St. James's Palace.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 266.
- 1822 One of two lawyers, in Mobile, Ala., bit the other so severely, and *gouged* both his eyes so much, as to leave pretty severe marks.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, Aug. 30.
- 1823 [I was] well pleased to turn my back on all the spitting, *gouging*, dirking, duelling, swearing, and staring of Old Kentucky.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 103.
- 1823 They would take the liberty to scratch me like a tiger, and *gouge*, and dirk me. I cannot part with my nose and eyes.—*Id.*, p. 194.
- 1825 James K. Paulding, in 'John Bull in America,' repeatedly ridicules the tales of frequent *gouging*. See pp. 2, 65, 101, 118, 129–31, 178, &c.
- 1826 [On the Mississippi] I saw more than one man who wanted an eye, and ascertained that I was now in the region of *gouging*.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 98.
- 1828 Be sure not to forget the *gouging* of the judge, the roasting of the negro, the wooden nutmegs, and the indigo coal.—J. K. Paulding, 'The New Mirror for Travellers,' p. 87 (N.Y., 1868).
- 1830 *Gouge him! Gouge him!* exclaimed a dozen voices.—Geo. D. Prentice, in the *Northern Watchman* (Troy, N.Y.), Sept. 7.
- 1834 His nose sharp enough to have *gouged the eye* of a musquetoe.—Grant Thorburn's 'Life,' p. 150 (Boston).
- 1834 He *gouged* his old horse, who wriggled, &c. [A note states that to *gouge* a horse is to spur him.]—*Knick. Mag.*, iii. 32 (Jan.).

**Gouge**—*contd.*

- 1835 Though I saw many boisterous doings [on the Mississippi], I never saw any one stabbed or *gouged*.—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' i. 300 (Lond.).
- 1836 The editor of the Western Emigrant, published at Bradford, Ky., was lately assaulted in his own office by two ruffians, one a deputy sheriff, and during a short scuffle he had an ear bit off, and one of his eyes *gouged out*. So says the *Louisville Journal*.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Sept. 3.
- 1842 *Savage Gouging*. A man of Gibson, Indiana, had one eye *gouged out*, and the other much injured, a short time ago, in a fight.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, March 29.
- 1842 But her nails are as sharp as a toasting-fork,  
And her arms are as strong as a bear's;  
She pulled my hair, and she *gouged my eye*,  
And she kicked me down the stairs.  
*Id.*, Oct. 26.
- 1843 Rowdy Bill was famous as a *gouger*, and so expert was he in his anti-optical vocation, that in a few minutes he usually bored out his adversary's eyes, or made him cry *peccavi*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 158.
- 1844 His right eye [was] shut as tightly as the one which some amiable playmate had *gouged out* in youth.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 32 (Phila.).
- 1847 Old Sparrowhawk says my *gouging* is beautiful; one of Bill's eyes is like the mouth of an old ink-bottle, only, as the fellow said, describing the jackass by the mule, more so.—'Jones's Fight,' p. 38 (Phila.).
- 1848 And never from that moment  
Knew he an hour of joy,  
Till he was *gouged* and bit to death  
In a fight in Illinois.  
'Stray Subjects,' p. 73.
- 1856 It made the governor a mere *gouger*, which would be humbling in the extreme.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Jan. 5.
- 1856 He gib Adam lodlom, till he git sound 'sleep; den he *gouge* a rib out he side, an' make Ebe.—Negro sermon, *Knicker. Mag.*, xlvii. 211 (Feb.).
- 1857 They would *gouge* Beelzebub out of his pitchfork and eye-teeth in less than four seconds.—*Id.*, xlix. 37 (Jan.).
- 1869 The hat, which he dolefully exhibited, certainly had a hole through it a little above the range of the scalp, but whether made by a Minie ball or *gouged out* with a knife could not be determined.—J. Ross Browne, 'Adventures in the Apache Country,' p. 164 (N.Y.).

**Gouge**. To cheat.

- 1845 Very well, gentlemen! *gouge* Mr. Crosby out of the seat, if you think it wholesome to do it.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Nov. 26 (Bartlett).

**Gouge**. A cheat, a swindle.

- 1845 There is a clear, plain *gouge* [of \$100,000] out of the people's strong box.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Dec. 10 (Bartlett).

**Governmental.** Relating to government.

- 1744 The *governmental* view [was] well settled to strengthen the southern part of the English settlements.—F. Moore, 'Voyage, Georgia.' (N.E.D.)
- 1781 One part out of seventy-three of all *governmental* taxes.—S. Peters, 'Hist. Connecticut,' p. 171. (N.E.D.)
- 1791 The *governmental* persecutions of the old world.—Thomas Paine, 'Rights of Man,' ii. 2. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 Why . . . are men so anxious to quit private pursuits for *governmental* employment?—Mr. Bayly of Virginia, House of Repr., Feb. 8: *Cong. Globe*, p. 135, App.

**Gowdy, to give one.** To thrash soundly.

- 1856 [He] "rolls over" by *giving his opponent gowdy*.—B. H. Hall, 'College Words,' p. 204.
- 1865 Do you feel now and then the least bit  
Of an incipient earthquake fit,  
Accompanied with awful raps?  
But *give 'em gowdy, give 'em gowdy,*  
And it'll soon clear away.

'The Rhyme of the Master's Mate,' *Atlantic Monthly*, Nov.

**Grab-bag, Grab-box.** A mild form of lottery used at church fairs.

- 1864 In one corner [of the Fair] was a fish-pond, a kind of old-fashioned *grab-box*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxix. 208.
- 1879 It is a *grab-bag* from which every politician hopes to draw a prize.—*N. Y. Tribune*, Sept. 23 (Century Dict.).

**Grade.** The inclination of a road upward or downward. Hence to *grade* a road, to adjust its inclination.

- 1835 [The proposed road] rises at a *grade* of about 20 feet to a mile.—'Journal Franklin Institute,' xv. 230. (N.E.D.)

**Graft.** An illicit commission or profit, particularly in connection with a political job. Hence **GRAFTER** and **GRAFTING**. The word, as thus used, apparently comes from the rogues' dictionary. Bartlett quotes the *Nat. Police Gazette*, unfortunately not supplying a date: "Scotch Moll is making out good *grafting* on the 8th Avenue cars."

- 1896 The roadster proper is distinguished from the tramp by having a "*graft*," or in other terms a visible means of support.—*Popular Science Journal*, iv. 255. (N.E.D.)
- 1909 It is bad enough to be trapped at all, but it is not written in the book of *graft* that you walk right up to the deadfall and allow yourself to be shoved in . . . Graft was all right, but gambling had to be on the level, among friends.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 11.
- 1910 They have seen the great practitioners of "*graft*" in San Francisco exposed and even punished, and . . . the same men triumphantly reinstated by the all-powerful "machine."—*The Times*, May 2, p. 11.

**Grahamite.** One who lives on the diet recommended by Sylvester Graham (1794–1851).

- 1844 He was as lean as a *Grahamite*, living entirely on bran bread and fricasseed radishes.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, x. 167.

**Grain-stalled.** Rare, and not in N.E.D. The precise meaning is obscure. In the passage quoted, it is equivalent to "extravagant."

1842 My hon. colleague [Mr. Warren], borne away by this *grain-stalled* fury, has declared that, if he saw the arm of the assassin raised to strike down John Tyler, he would not raise a finger to prevent it.—Mr. Colquitt of Georgia, in the House of Repr., Aug. 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 813, App.

**Grammet, to make a.** A grimace (?).

1850 "We saw the stage-passengers getting out, and among them were some of the boys going to college.".... "I'll warrant you *made a grammet* at them," said the mother [to her daughter].—*Knickerbocker*, xxxvi. 216 (Sept.).

**Granite State, The.** New Hampshire.

1830 [Daniel Webster is] a genuine son of the "*Granite State*," and a plain farmer's boy.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 20: from the *Virginia Advocate*.

1837 A Daughter of the *Granite State* was to have been married, etc.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Dec. 20, p. 2/2.

1841 The brave *Granite Republic*, whose interests I have the honor to represent in part here.—Mr. Woodbury of New Hampshire, in the U.S. Senate, June 16.: *Cong. Globe*, p. 42, App.

1842 I come from New Hampshire, or what we call the *Granite State*.—J. F. Cooper, 'Jack O'Lantern', i. 112. (N.E.D.)

**Granny-knot.** A loose knot. A nautical term: See N.E.D.

1859 Another kept at home altogether, because the minister tied his handkerchief in a *granny-knot*.—B. P. Shillaber, 'Knitting Work', p. 170 (Boston).

**Grape-vine telegram.** A canard.

1864 Many "*grape-vine*" telegraphic reports are afloat in camp.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers', i. 437 (1876).

1865 Plenty of "*grape*," i.e. rumors afloat of a speedy general exchange.—*Id.*, iii. 56 (1877).

**Grass, Last, This, or Next.** In these phrases *Grass* means *Spring*.

1598 Whom seven-years-old at the *next grass* he ghest.—Sylvester's 'Du Bartas.' (N.E.D.)

1685 A Black brown gelding,....six years old *last Grass*.—*London Gazette*, No. 2061. (N.E.D.)

1778 Strayed, a black Colt, three years old *next grass*.—*Maryland Journal*, March 24.

1790 Nebuchadnezzar will be six years old *next grass*.—*Id.*, April 6.

1804 The noted horse, Prince Herod, is three years old *this grass*.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, April 14.

1805 Ethiopian is a jet black, nine years old *this grass*, full sixteen hands high.—*Id.*, June 21.

1843 "*Next grass*," replied Hans, meaning thereby that at some period during the next spring he expected to boast the prerogatives of a free man.—*Knickerbocker*, xxi. 524 (June).

**Grass Widow, Widower.** A grass widower is one who is for the time being without his wife. "A grass widow" is an ambiguous term. In the sixteenth century it had an opprobrious meaning. Mr. George Hempl of Ann Arbor, in April, 1893, examined a hundred students as to the use of the phrase. Nineteen understood it to mean a woman divorced; to thirty-seven it signified a woman divorced or informally separated from her husband, he being usually the deserting party; forty-two were familiar with the term only in reference to a woman who had been deserted by her husband, or had left him, usually the former. The 1854 example presents a new difficulty.

- 1528 For then had wyuys ben in his time lytel better than *grasse wydowes* be now.—More's 'Dyaloge.' (N.E.D.)
- 1582 Marie the daughter of Elizabeth London *graswidow*.—*Suffolk Register*, January. (N.E.D.)
- 1854 [She] was arrayed, as who ever saw a veritable *grass widow* not arrayed, in a memorable suit of black.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xx. 21.
- 1862 How she whirls like a firework in rapture away  
When you take her a "rocket-time" ride in a sleigh;  
How she loves to be wrapped like a baby complete  
And begs you to carefully shawl up her feet.  
O pshaw! she'd be glad to go ride on a hearse  
With a six-footer big-whiskered chap for her nurse,  
And would waltz with Old Nick, if she found him polite,  
The pretty *grass-widow* who lives on our flight.  
Fourth verse of 'Ye Grass Widow': *Knickerbocker Mag.*, lix. 315 (March).
- 1862 David is a bachelor again, or rather a "*grass-widower*." We refer to D. H. M., Esq., whose estimable young wife left him by this day's coach to spend the summer at her old home in the Empire State.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, June 14.
- 1870 Her life....devoted to *grass-widowhood*.—*The Congregationalist*, Jan. 6 (Bartlett).  
\*.\* See also *The Nation*, N.Y. (1893), lvi. 215, 235, 253; and *Notes and Queries*, Series 6, *passim*.

**Gray-back.** A Confederate soldier. Also a louse: see quot. 1876, and App. XIV.

- 1862 *Graybacks* have invaded our camp, and are hard to repel.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xii. 27 (1884).
- 1864 The darkies sat grinning and hunting in their rags for *greybacks*.—*Daily Telegraph*, March 17. (N.E.D.)
- 1864 The last thing he is likely to attempt is to send a solitary *grayback* or an army of *graybacks* beyond the mountains.—*Id.*, July 7. (N.E.D.)

**Gray-back—contd.**

- 1876 A short waisted, single breasted jacket usurped the place of the long tail coat. The enemy noticed this peculiarity, and called the Confederates *gray jackets*, which name was immediately transferred to those lively creatures which were the constant admirers and inseparable companions of the Boys in Gray and Blue.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' ii. 131.
- 1882 These insects, which in camp parlance were called *gray-backs*, first made their appearance in the winter of 1861.—*Id.*, x. 510.

**Grease-spot.** An infinitesimally small quantity.

- 1836 There was scarce enough left of him, after the canvass was over, to make a small *grease spot*.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 22.
- 1842 The poor young gentleman in black was used all up to a *grease spot*.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Jan. '26.
- 1843 If you was to look at me with a ship's glass, you wouldn't see a *grease spot* of it in me —Haliburton, 'The Attaché,' ii. 143. (N.E.D.)
- 1845 If it had a been one of them t'other chaps, we would a skin'd em as quick as Crockett would a coon, and then eat them alive without leaving a *grease spot*.—P. P. Pratt, Account of his escape: *The Prophet* (N.Y.), Feb. 8.
- 1847 There won't be so much as a *grease-spot* left of [Gen. Scott]. —Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 302 (1860).
- 1848 I thought thet gold mines could be gut cheaper than Chiny asters,  
An' see myself a comin' back like sixty Jacob Astors ;  
But sech idees soon melted down an' didn't leave a *grease-spot* ;  
I vow my holl sheer o' the spiles wouldn't come nigh a  
V spot. 'Biglow Papers,' No. 8.
- 1849 Mr. Thomas thinks we have reduced the gentleman to a *grease-spot*.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xxxiv. 13 (July).
- 1852 They were told, "there will not be a *grease spot* left of you," in Western phrase, if you support General Harrison.—Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina, House of Repr., June 14: *Cong. Globe*, p. 705, App.
- 1853 O my friends, there is no place like home, excepting Hoboken in the summer. Nay, Hoboken is a *grease-spot* to it.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 105.
- 1867 "If Yellow Jack gets into this here place," said the rebel quartermaster, "it won't leave a *grease spot* on yer."—W. L. Goss, 'A Soldier's Story,' p. 141 (Boston).

**Greased lightning.** An emblem of rapidity.

- 1833 He spoke as quick as "*greased lightning*."—*Boston, Lincoln, &c., Herald*, Jan. 15. (N.E.D.)
- 1837 If I didn't fetch old dug-out through slicker than snakes, and faster than a *greased thunderbolt*.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' ii. 90 (Lond.).





**Greaser—contd.**

- 1888 A Mexican driver (a *greaser*) cracked his whip over the heads of his oxen. There is no sound like the snap of the lash of a "bull-whacker," as they are called, and perhaps brighter women than I am might have thought it a pistol-shot.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' pp. 228–9.
- 1890 His short, stocky figure, swarthy skin, and coarse features, made him a typical *Greaser*, and quite the replica of many we had seen in Texas.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 25.

**Grease-wood.** See quot. 1846.

- 1845 Wild sage and *greasewood* found in plenty.—Joel Palmer, 'Journal,' Aug. 28, p. 48 (Cincinnati, 1847).
- 1846 Artemisia, or rather *greasewood* of the mountaineers, became quite abundant.—Rufus B. Sage, 'Scenes in the Rocky Mountains,' p. 108 (Phila.).
- 1846 A shrub called *grease-wood*, about three feet in height, with a bright green foliage, containing a fetid, oily substance, in places disputes the occupancy of the soil with the wild sage.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I saw of California,' p. 102 (London, 1849).
- 1851 Mayne Reid. (N.E.D.)
- 1856 What is [the lot] worth?—Well, I don't know; it is full of saleratus and *greasewood*.—Brigham Young, June 15: 'Journal of Discourses,' iii. 340.
- 1857 Should the crisis arrive, they will find nothing but *grease-wood* and sage to feed upon.—The same, Sept. 13: *id.*, v. 235.
- 1878 I noted a plentiful supply of two old Utah acquaintances,—sage-brush and *greasewood*.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 162.

**Great on.** Particularly devoted to, or famous for.

- 1844 He did not know how to cure the ague and fever, but he was *great on* fits.—Mr. Schenck of Ohio in the House of Repr., Jan. 8: *Cong. Globe*, p. 117.
- 1849 I'm *great on* shells now, and pyroligneous acid.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxiii. 244 (March).
- 1856 He's *awful on* possums; oh, I tell ye now, he's *great*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 147.
- 1862 I'm *gret on* dreams, an' often when I wake  
I've lived so much, it makes my mem'ry ache.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 6.

**Greatest and best.** The phrase "great and good" has been applied to several persons, from Darius down to Hugh McNeile. It remained for American genius to raise it to the superlative, and apply it to "Old Hickory."

- 1837 Has not "the *Greatest and Best*" denounced [the State Banks] even with more venom than he ever denounced the great monster and Old Nick himself? . . . Let us call to mind the scene exhibited here in March last, when the *Greatest and Best* was retired from office.—Mr. Wise of Virginia in the House of Repr., Sept. 27: *Cong. Globe*, pp. 246–7, App.



**Greatest and best—contd.**

- 1838 I do not stand here for the successor to that *Greatest and Best*. His friends have given him up. The papers indeed may still affect to support him. They may "keep a stiff upper lip," as the saying is; but the game is up. They know the game is up.—The same, Jan. 2: *id.*, p. 34, App.
- 1841 I saw a despot, slavishly called "the *greatest and best*," . . . .violating with ruthless hand our glorious Constitution. . . .I feared all was lost.—Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina, the same, Feb. 18: *id.*, p. 355, App.

**Green corn.** See quot. 1817.

- 1812 The garrison was left with only *green corn* to subsist on.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 7.
- 1817 Sweet corn is corn gathered before it is ripe, and dried in the sun; it is called by the Americans *green corn*, or corn in the milk.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 114.
- 1822 On the 5th inst., a gentleman [of Northampton, Mass.] had *green corn* upon his table, in about two months from the time it was planted.—*Mass. Spy*, July 17.
- 1824 We have had *green Corn* [in Norfolk, Va.] for a fortnight past.—*Id.*, Aug. 11. (Correspondence.)
- 1846 He was dispatched, in the month of May, with a bushel bag, to get *green corn*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xi. 171.
- 1858 His mother, like an old fool, sets a dish of *green corn* on the table; and so Josh, who hadn't seen nuthin' fresh for more'n ninety days, falls right to, an' eats the hull of it, which was eighteen ears in all.—*Knick. Mag.*, li. 7 (Jan.).

**Green Mountain Boys.** The Vermonters.

- 1775 Two hundred and thirty of them were *green mountain boys*, so called from their residing within the limits of the Green Mountain.—W. Gordon, 'Hist. of the Am. Revolution,' ii. 11 (Lond., 1788).
- 1776 One lieut Whitcomb, a *green mountain boy*, was guilty of a base action.—*Id.*, ii. 378.
- 1777 I shall endeavour to convince you, at the hand of my *Green Mountain Boys*, that your dominion is temporary.—*Maryland Journal*, Dec. 16.
- 1779 Ethan Allen and the *Green Mountain men* are said to have entered into alliance with Clinton.—Tho. Hutchinson's 'Diary,' Oct. 6.
- 1788 The inhabitants [of Vermont] had long no other name than that of *Green-Mountain Boys*, but, thinking this an ignoble appellation for their new destiny, they translated Green-Mountain into French, which made Verd-mont, and by corruption Vermont.—'Am. Museum,' iv. 184.
- 1850 If they must fight, *Green Mountain Boys* can do that extempore.—Mr. Meacham of Vermont, House of Repr., May 14: *Cong. Globe*, p. 606, Appendix.
- 1852 I am a *green mountain boy*. I was born in the State of Vermont.—Brigham Young, Aug. 1: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 362.

**Greenbacks.** Paper money of the U.S. The term was invented by Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury.

1862 The *greenbacks* are popular; people have had a fresh taste of a paper currency.—*N.Y. Tribune*, June 14 (Bartlett).

1862 Paymaster Fillmore brought with him from Washington \$350,000 in "*greenbacks*," with which to pay off the Colorado boys.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Dec. 11.

1862 Bonds, *greenbacks*, and postage currency paper [are] to do all the duty of money.—*The Times*, Dec. 23, American Corr. (N.E.D.)

1863 Answers to that conundrum, why the *greenbacks* were like the children of Israel, have been rendered by several gents about town.... "Because they are the issue of Abraham, waiting their redemption."—*Rocky Mountain News*, Jan. 29.

1870 He had a pill which would annihilate every known malady, and an oil which would assuage every pain.... This seemed to give satisfaction to his audience, for numbers exchanged their *greenbacks* for his rubbish.—Rae, 'Westward by Rail,' p. 47 (Lond.).

[Paul Kruger is said to have left 14,000*l.* in sovereigns, and 48,000*l.* in *blue-backs*.—*Notes and Queries*, 10 S. ix. 326.]

**Greenbackers.** Those who advocated an over-issue of paper money. They were the precursors of the "silver craze" party.

1876 Steps are being taken to secure a union of the *greenbackers* and the Democrats in a fusion election ticket.—*N.Y. Tribune*, October (Bartlett).

1878 The millions who call themselves *Greenbackers*.—*North Am. Review*, p. 103. (N.E.D.)

**Green head.** See quotation.

1838 [My horse was] severely troubled by that terrible insect, so notorious all over the West, the large green-bottle prairie fly, called the "*green-head*."—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 107 (N.Y.).

**Griddle-greaser.** A spoon or implement used to grease the griddle. The term is sometimes applied to a tough old fowl. The meaning in quot. 1854 is doubtful.

1843 On [my] being importunate for buckwheat cakes in the kitchen, Betty often threatened my face with the *griddle-greaser*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 246.

1845 See Appendix XV.

1854 The prolix-hating editor [was] bantered by the *griddle-greaser*.—Letter to the *Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 19.

**Gripsack.** A hand-bag or portmanteau.

1883 The word "*grip-sack*" has long been in use in America as a slang term for hand-satchel.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, Dec. 11, 2/2. (N.E.D.)

\*.\* The word is now in general use, and is no longer slang.

**Greatest and best—contd.**

- 1838 I do not stand here for the successor to that *Greatest and Best*. His friends have given him up. The papers indeed may still affect to support him. They may "keep a stiff upper lip," as the saying is; but the game is up. They know the game is up.—The same, Jan. 2: *id.*, p. 34, App.
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- 1776 One lieut Whitcomb, a *green mountain boy*, was guilty of a base action.—*Id.*, ii. 378.
- 1777 I shall endeavour to convince you, at the hand of my *Green Mountain Boys*, that your dominion is temporary.—*Maryland Journal*, Dec. 16.
- 1779 Ethan Allen and the *Green Mountain men* are said to have entered into alliance with Clinton.—Tho. Hutchinson's 'Diary,' Oct. 6.
- 1788 The inhabitants [of Vermont] had long no other name than that of *Green-Mountain Boys*, but, thinking this an ignoble appellation for their new destiny, they translated Green-Mountain into French, which made Verd-mont, and by corruption Vermont.—'Am. Museum,' iv. 184.
- 1850 If they must fight, *Green Mountain Boys* can do that extempore.—Mr. Meacham of Vermont, House of Repr., May 14: *Cong. Globe*, p. 606, Appendix.
- 1852 I am a *green mountain boy*. I was born in the State of Vermont.—Brigham Young, Aug. 1: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 362.

**Greenbacks.** Paper money of the U.S. The term was invented by Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury.

1862 The *greenbacks* are popular; people have had a fresh taste of a paper currency.—*N.Y. Tribune*, June 14 (Bartlett).

1862 Paymaster Fillmore brought with him from Washington \$350,000 in "*greenbacks*," with which to pay off the Colorado boys.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Dec. 11.

1862 Bonds, *greenbacks*, and postage currency paper [are] to do all the duty of money.—*The Times*, Dec. 23, American Corr. (N.E.D.)

1863 Answers to that conundrum, why the *greenbacks* were like the children of Israel, have been rendered by several gents about town.... "Because they are the issue of Abraham, waiting their redemption."—*Rocky Mountain News*, Jan. 29.

1870 He had a pill which would annihilate every known malady, and an oil which would assuage every pain.... This seemed to give satisfaction to his audience, for numbers exchanged their *greenbacks* for his rubbish.—Rae, 'Westward by Rail,' p. 47 (Lond.).

[Paul Kruger is said to have left 14,000*l.* in sovereigns, and 48,000*l.* in *blue-backs*.—*Notes and Queries*, 10 S. ix. 326.]

**Greenbackers.** Those who advocated an over-issue of paper money. They were the precursors of the "silver craze" party.

1876 Steps are being taken to secure a union of the *greenbackers* and the Democrats in a fusion election ticket.—*N.Y. Tribune*, October (Bartlett).

1878 The millions who call themselves *Greenbackers*.—*North Am. Review*, p. 103. (N.E.D.)

**Green head.** See quotation.

1838 [My horse was] severely troubled by that terrible insect, so notorious all over the West, the large green-bottle prairie fly, called the "*green-head*."—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 107 (N.Y.).

**Griddle-greaser.** A spoon or implement used to grease the griddle. The term is sometimes applied to a tough old fowl. The meaning in quot. 1854 is doubtful.

1843 On [my] being importunate for buckwheat cakes in the kitchen, Betty often threatened my face with the *griddle-greaser*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 246.

1845 See Appendix XV.

1854 The prolix-hating editor [was] bantered by the *griddle-greaser*.—Letter to the *Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 19.

**Gripsack.** A hand-bag or portmanteau.

1883 The word "*grip-sack*" has long been in use in America as a slang term for hand-satchel.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, Dec. 11, 2/2. (N.E.D.)

\*.\* The word is now in general use, and is no longer slang.

**Grist.** A quantity of anything.

- 1833 There has been a mighty *grist* of rain lately up above.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' i. 133 (Lond.).
- 1837 What should I do but see a hull *grist* on 'em [Injuns] dodging among the bushes.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 184 (Lond.).
- 1840 Some smart *grists* of rain has fell.—Haliburton, 'The Clockmaker,' iii. xviii. (N.E.D.)
- 1847 He owes old Sambo a whull *grist* of fourpences for blackin' his boots, runnin' of ar'nds, and sich like small chores.—Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 142.
- 1848 In half an hour I'd the hull *grist* o' the marmen cooped up in the cavern.—Burton's 'Waggeries,' p. 24.
- 1853 Say, Squire, them there cakes is "bout east," fetch us another *grist* on 'em.—*The Columbian*, Olympia (W.T.), April 16.
- 1853 That old Greke that folks tell so much about never poured out sich a *grist* of oratory in all his born days.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 411 (1860).
- 1859 Every year we grind out a *grist* of officers, and they come out of the hopper with epaulets on their shoulders, and green or red stripes up and down each side of their pants.—Mr. Lovejoy of Illinois, House of Repr., Feb. 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1132.
- 1910 One Day's *Grist*. A book of personal essays, three or four juvenile stories, two fat biographies, a book of travel, a treatise on electricity and a work on modern religious thought were among the books that made up this heterogeneous collection, the gathering for a single day.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 21.

**Grit.** Courage, resolution. **Clear Grit.** The same carried to a high point.

- 1825 [He was] sharp as a razor—*clear grit*. — John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' iii. 386. (N.E.D.)
- 1834 These Dutch minxes are clear pepper-pots for *grit*. — D. P. Thompson, 'Adventures of Timothy Peacock,' p. 91.
- 1834 Mother says before I was a week old I showed that I was *real grit*.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 25.
- 1839 The clan are all of the same *grit*.—'History of V. A. Stewart,' p. 54 (N.Y.).
- 1843 Patterson was what I calls *real grit*. He was a good, quiet, steady man too on board ship; always clean and active, and cheerful in obeying orders.—A. E. Silliman, 'Gallop among American Scenery,' p. 76.
- 1844 She's as slick as a peeled maple, and as *clear grit* as a skinned tater rolled in the sand.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, x. 167.
- 1846 [He] sed the parson wuz dreffle tickled with [the varses], and said they wuz *True Grit*.—'Biglow Papers,' No. 1.
- 1853 [He] is not of Mormon *grit*. That was the *grit* Joseph Smith had.—Elder J. M. Grant at the Tabernacle, Aug. 7: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 348.

**Grit**—*contd.*

- 1853 It goes agin my *grit* for Hardscrabble to cave in to Dogtown.—'Life Scenes,' p. 43.
- 1855 They are full of *grit*, and ready to swallow Cuba 'alive'.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 434 (1860).
- 1862 He was six foot o' man, A l,  
Clear *grit* an' human natur'.  
J. R. Lowell, 'The Courtin'.'
- 1866 Mr. Whipple's subject was "*Grit*," of which, the lecturer said, there was defiance in the very sound. *Grit* was spirit and will thrust into heart and backbone.—N.Y. *Tribune*, Oct. 17 (Bartlett).
- 1869 These Mexicans, she said, were dead-alive sort of cusses. The men had no *grit*, and the women no jingle.—J. Ross Browne, 'Adventures,' p. 182 (N.Y.).
- a.1880 See Appendix XXII.

**Grit one's teeth.** To grind them.

- 1797 Mr. Adams, *gritting his teeth*, said, &c.—Thomas Jefferson, 'The Anas,' Dec. 26.
- 1823 The harmony arising from the filing of a saw, or the *gritting of teeth*.—*Mass. Spy*, April 30.
- 1847 *Gritting his teeth*, with a noise like a millstone, he walked abruptly out of the room.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xii. 200.
- 1848 Just conceive how much harder *your teeth you'd have gritted*  
An 't were not for the dullness I've kindly omitted.  
J. R. Lowell, 'A Fable for Critics.' (N.E.D.)
- 1850 Lucy uttered a shriek, and, *gritting her teeth*, dragged me into the house.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 136.
- 1852 She *grits her teeth*, even now, whenever she thinks of him.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xl. 178 (Aug.).
- 1878 He could no longer stand behind the door and *grit his teeth* when the troubles of polygamy pressed upon him.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 364.

**Gritty.** Courageous, resolute, independent.

- 1847 There never was a *grittier* crowd congregated on that stream.—Robb, 'Squatter Life,' p. 106. (N.E.D.)
- a.1860 Thought I, my neighbor Buckingham  
Hath somewhat in him *gritty*,  
Some Pilgrim-stuff that hates all sham,  
And he will print my ditty.  
J. R. Lowell, 'An Interview with Miles Standish.'
- 1861 [We ought to be] so *gritty* that we will actually go without buying a pasteboard bonnet, when we can have something we can produce ourselves that will answer the purpose.—Geo. A. Smith at Logan, Utah, Sept. 10: 'Journal of Discourses,' ix. 117.
- 1866 And then father would look *gritty* enough to bite a board-nail in two.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 62.

**Grocery, corner-grocery.** A drinking-place.

- 1806 A writer in the *Albany Gazette* states that there are 174 licensed *groceries* in the city of Albany.—*The Balance*, Jan. 28, p. 31.
- 1830 Wilson told the Sheriff to take the jury to a *grocery*, that he might treat them, and invited every body that chose to go. Some men who have held a good standing in society followed the crowd to the *grocery*. [This was in Arkansas.]—*The Jeffersonian*, June 30.
- 1846 He went into his favourite *grocery* or drinking-house.—‘Quarter Race in Kentucky,’ &c., p. 104. (N.E.D.)
- 1847 Every other house [in Santa Fé] was a *grocery*, as they call a gin and whisky shop.—Ruxton, ‘Mexico,’ &c., p. 189. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 His day’s drinking circuit had been wider than usual, embracing a new *grocery*, where they treated all comers.—Cornelius Mathews, ‘Moneypenny,’ p. 109 (N.Y.).
- 1852 The course which some men took in keeping *groceries*, &c.—H. C. Kimball at the Mormon Tabernacle, Sept. 19: ‘Journal of Discourses,’ ii. 355.
- 1852 I was called upon by the Prophet in Nauvoo to engage in temporal knocking, and we knocked one *grocery* bottom side up, and away it went, grog, glasses, tobacco, snuff, the Devil, and all.—Ezra Benson, same place, Sept. 12: *id.*, vi. 249.
- 1853 Six *groceries* which we mean to leave as dry as an old maid’s lips.—Paxton, ‘A Stray Yankee in Texas,’ p. 208.
- 1853 See TREE.
- 1854 An altercation had arisen at the *grocery* (fashionably called doggery).—Baldwin, ‘Flush Times,’ p. 65.
- 1857 Some will set up a small *grocery* or groggery; they go into debt to those who have a bigger groggery.—John Taylor at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 9: ‘Journal of Discourses,’ v. 119.
- 1862 I need not describe the remorseless fury with which the water melons were slaughtered, and the whisky drank (*sic*) in a neighboring *grocery*.—S. S. Cox, ‘Eight Years in Congress,’ p. 231 (1865).
- 1909 Any *corner-grocery* clerk could load scales in seven ways; but only a genius thinks of weighing iron as wood, flour-sacks as flour, or candy fish as good red herring. [Here the word means a general store.]—*N. Y. Ev. Post*, Feb. 8.

**Groggery.** A low drinking den.

- 1824 [In Kentucky] too many of the groceries are *grogeries* (*sic*).—Arthur Singleton, ‘Letters from the South and West,’ p. 94 (Boston).
- 1835 Long lines of unpainted, wretched looking dwellings, occupied as “*groggeries*.”—Ingraham, ‘The South West,’ ii. 190.
- 1858 At dawn the loafer sneaks from bed,  
In all his rough attire,  
And totters to the “*groggery*”  
To quench the liquid fire.

*Olympia* (W.T.) *Pioneer*, Jan. 1.



**Grog-shop.** Same as GROGGERY.

- 1790 There are some good taverns,....also an incredible number of petty ones, called *grog shops*.—J. B. Moreton, 'The West Indies,' p. 35. (N.E.D.)
- 1800 Are they not busy, day and night, at the corners of the streets, at *grog shops*, and other places of resort?—*Mass. Mercury*, May 2.
- 1803 Factionous underlings, who formerly clamored against the Sedition Law in *grog-shops*.—*The Balance*, March 8, p. 74.
- 1809 [He was] declaiming in every *grog shop*, that there must be a change of men.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 16.
- 1812 Till they should be landed safely in a *grog-shop* or tavern.—*Boston-Gazette*, Dec. 7.
- 1823 It is too often near a *grog shop*.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 3: from the *Christian Mirror*.
- 1829 Talking loudly in taverns and *grog-shops* of the great interests of the country.—*Id.*, April 8: from the *Williamstown Advocate*.
- 1843 To enlarge the Congressional districts....would break the power of mere shake-hands and *grog-shop* influence.—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, House of Repr., April 21: *Cong. Globe*, p. 437.
- 1854 In a city acknowledged by God, *grog shops* cannot be tolerated.—H. C. Kimball at the Mormon Tabernacle, Nov. 26: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 163.
- Ground and Lofty Tumbling.** Acrobatic feats without and on the rope.
- 1786 Surprising feats of *Lofty Tumbling* by a Groupe of Performers from Sadlers Wells.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Oct. 22.
- 1796 "*Ground and Lofty Tumbling*" at the Pantheon, Philadelphia.—Advt., *Gazette of the U.S.*, Nov. 19.
- 1799 "*Ground and Lofty Tumbling*."—Advt., *The Aurora*, Phila., Feb. 12.
- 1806 The whole will conclude with....*ground tumbling*, bottle-breaking, and drawbacks, accompanied with a red eye and head ache.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 27.
- 1834 There was a rip-roaring sight of slight o' hand and tumblin work, besides that *ground and lofty tumbling* they had in the handbills.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 62.
- 1839 I have no highland fling to throw off, no *ground and lofty tumbling* with which to amuse.—Mr. Roane of Virginia in the U.S. Senate, Feb. 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 185, App.
- 1845 The whole troop were engaged for some twenty minutes in feats of *ground and lofty tumbling*.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 26.
- 1850 [We shall see] how many Whigs will now take their turn upon the spring board, and give us an example of *ground and lofty tumbling*.—Mr. Giddings of Ohio, House of Repr., Aug. 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1563.
- 1854 This is the greatest feat of political *ground-and-lofty tumbling* that I have ever seen, heard, or read of.—Mr. Cullom of Tennessee, the same, April 11: *id.*, p. 540, App.

**Ground-hog.** The wood-chuck.

- 1789 A McNack, or *Ground-Hog*, presented [to Peale's Museum] by Mr. Johnston.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Nov. 13.
- 1806 I took notice of a small aboriginal animal, called the *Ground* or *Indian Hog*—whose sensibilities are so little refined, that no attention or caresses can ever....make it refrain from snapping at the hand extended with its daily food.—Thomas Ashe, 'Travels in America,' ii. 111 (Lond., 1808).
- 1813 It is hard to fight people who live like *ground hogs*.—Speech of Tecumseh, in Waldo's 'Memoirs of Andrew Jackson,' p. 149 (Hartford, 1818).
- 1816 Out start young lads, and bring home the partridge, the *groundhog*, the rabbit, and the opossum.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 64 (Boston, 1824).
- 1823 [The prairie dog's flesh] nearly resembles that of the *ground hog* or woodchuck.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Expedition,' i. 455 (Phila.).
- 1829 The terrapins and *ground hogs* and snakes that we saw [in the microscope] taken from a drop of vinegar.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 5: from the *Illinois Intelligencer*.
- 1843 We had not met with one [buffalo], nor even with a *ground-hog*.—Marryat, 'M. Violet,' ii. 226. (N.E.D.)
- 1862 T. has succeeded in killing a *groundhog*, a huge fellow.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, April 26.
- 1877 In America, it is left to the *ground-hog* to decide the day, and so the fate of the season. He is supposed to come out of his hole on that day, and take a look at the world. If it is a bright day, he can see his shadow on the ground, and, taking fright at it, will run back into his home and stay there. A fresh attack of winter will set in, and he will be justified in the steps he has taken. If it is cloudy, he will cast no shadow, take no fright, and gives us no further attack of winter.—*Hartford Courant*, Feb. 3 (Bartlett).
- 1882 He knows no more what I did from June to September than a *groundhog* does of the flight of an eagle.—*Washington Critic*, March 20.
- 1885 Don' make dese gentlemen tink yer got no more manners 'an a *groun' hog*.—Admiral Porter, 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 88.
- 1888 From this time on, Old Prob. and the *Ground-hog* will have it nip and tuck, with the chances in favor of the hog.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Chicago, Feb. 4 (Farmer).
- 1910 Happy *ground hog*, in boring a hole in which he can crawl, and remain while Winter and Spring adjust their atmospheric differences.—*The Oregonian*, Feb. 18.

\*.\* "Ground-hog day" is February 2nd, Candlemas, a day long associated with weather predictions. Sir Thomas Browne quotes the distich,

Si Sol splendet Mariâ purificante,  
Major erit glacies post festum quam fuit ante.

**Ground hornet.**

- 1821 A nest of *ground hornets*, concealed under the logway.—Zerah Hawley, 'Tour' [in Ohio, &c.], p. 95.

**Grout.** To grumble. **Grouty.** Discontented.

- 1836 Been quite "*grouty*" all vacation; "black as Erebus."—J. R. Lowell, 'Letters' (1894), i. 11. (N.E.D.)

- 1848 Ez long 'z the people git their rattle  
Wut is there fer 'm to *grout* about?

'Biglow Papers,' No. 7.

- 1850 "Don't grin at me," S. added, very *groutily*.—Sylvester Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 57.

- 1856 It will furnish even the most sober and "*grouty*" mirth enough.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 234.

**Grub.** A hard student. College slang.

- 1847 A man must not be ashamed to be called a "*grub*" in college, if he would shine in the world.—Wells and Davis, 'Sketch of Williams College,' p. 76. (N.E.D.)

**Grubs.** See quotations.

- 1794 The *grubs* should be completely eradicated.—Geo. Washington to Mr. Pearce, Dec. 28: 'Memoirs of Long Island Historical Society' (1889), iv. 144.

- 1840 *Grubs* are, in Western [Mich.] parlance, the gnarled roots of small trees and shrubs.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 144.

- 1875 A machine....to pull *grubs*: that is, stumps and roots of bushes, saplings, and small trees.—Knight, 'Dict. Mech.' (N.E.D.)

**Grubbing.** The eradication of "*grubs*." The word goes back as far as the 'Promptorium Parvulorum,' ab. 1440: N.E.D.

- 1725 *Grubbing*, a term used in agriculture, and signifies the cleaning of Ground of Stubs, &c.—Bradley, 'Fam. Dict.' (N.E.D.)

- 1779 A quantity of good meadowland, part of which is already *grubbed*.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Jan. 26.

- 1823 To root up the small roots is called *grubbing*, so as to render the land fit for the plough, and the *grubbings* are to be burnt.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 320.

- 1829 Several young men were returning from a *grubbing frolic* [near Muncy, Pa.].—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 2: from the *Lycoming Gazette*.

- 1838 In the states of Indiana and Illinois, the *grubbing* of the road has been completed.—Mr. Boon of Indiana, House of Repr., April 11: *Cong. Globe*, p. 298.

**Grubstake.** A bargain by which one person, who is said to "*grubstake*" the other, furnishes him with supplies for a mining expedition, on the promise of sharing the proceeds. He supplies the "*grub*," and has a "*stake*" in the venture.

- 1885 What is roughly termed a "*grubstake*."—Butterworth, 'Zig-zag Journey,' p. 309. (N.E.D.)

**Grubstake**—*contd.*

- 1890 He *grubstaked* us, and we used to work on the Tillie mine together.—Gunter, 'Miss Nobody,' p. 100. (N.E.D.)
- 1895 The prospector, with his led horse, loaded with *grubstake*, blankets, pick; and pan.—*The Forum*, N.Y., p. 475. (N.E.D.)
- 1897 The applicants were eager to go as prospectors, or to ally themselves with what might even be "*grubstake*" concerns.—*The Oregonian*, July 19.
- 1897 Those going in the steerage [by the s.s. Elder] are, as a rule, men who are being *grubstaked* by parties in Portland.—*Id.*, July 24.
- 1897 This summer, the Puget Sound papers teemed with advertisements of this kind: "Wanted, a *grubstake*, by two experienced prospectors." "Wanted, by strong experienced man, a grocery *grubstake* for the Klondyke." "Wanted, by a reliable young man, \$200, balance of a \$500 *grubstake*."—*Id.*, July 25, p. 9.
- 1900 In 1882 a party of miners entered [the Yukon country] by way of the Dyea Pass. All those who got far enough down the river found it easy to make a "*grubstake*," and though a "homestake" (i.e. enough to enable a man to go home and settle down) was not so easily found, the Yukon gold-fields soon obtained a fair reputation among the placer-miners of this coast.—Osborn, 'Greater Canada,' p. 111 (Lond.).

**Grum.** Surly, unpleasant in appearance.

- 1640 The King replied nothing, but Look'd very *grum*.—'Lisimore Papers' (1888), iv. 46. (N.E.D.)
- 1670 Retaining a kind of a *grum* reservedness in the rest of his Actions.—Cotton, 'Esperson,' iii. 465. (N.E.D.)
- 1784 Ran away last night, an indented Irish Servant Man, . . . long visage, middling sharp chin, *grum* downish look.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, July 27.
- 1834 The poet looked gloomily, or what is vernacularly called *grum*.—Robert C. Sands, 'Writings,' ii. 187 (N.Y.).
- 1834 I can manage my own affairs, replied Brownfield *grumly*.—'Novellettes of a Traveller,' ii. 177 (N.Y.).
- 1840 He stood looking down, with a *grum* cogitation, at his own image in the water.—John P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 39.
- 1842 The sun seems extraordinarily sulky and *grum*.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, June 18.
- 1853 He has grown unaccountably more *grum*.—"Lewis Myrtle," 'Cap Sheaf,' p. 258 (N.Y.).
- 1854 Mr. Bird very *grumly* said he'd better hold on.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 92.
- 1855 The social life of the Colonies was pretty grim and pretty *grum*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 451 (Nov.).
- 1902 Alan bolted his food in *grum* silence.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 256.

**Guardeen.** A guardian. The word is frequently thus pronounced by half educated people.

1761 It is so spelled in a Suffolk (Mass.) probate document, April 14 : 'Dialect Notes,' i. 213.

1833 Have a *gardeen* 'pynted for you, as soon as I get ashore.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 97.

1844 They are of age, and don't need any *guardeens*.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xxiii. 24 (Jan.).

1859 I'll take an' keep him till he's fourteen. He can choose his own *guardeen* at that age.—Mrs. Duniway, 'Captain Gray's Company,' p. 177 (Portland, Oregon).

**Guard-lock.** See quot. 1840.

1821 [The canal] contains nine locks. The first, after the *guard-lock*, has a descent of six feet.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' ii. 353.

1840 [A] *guard-lock*, in canalling, is employed in maintaining the level of a canal, by preventing the encroachment of water, &c.—H. S. Tanner, 'Canals and Railways of the U.S.,' p. 250. (N.E.D.)

**Gubernatorial.** Belonging or relating to a governor.

1734 The Governor in his *gubernatorial* capacity.—'N.J. Archives' (1894), xi. 368. (N.E.D.)

1789 (Feb.) "Three *gubernatorial* Esculapians" are mentioned in a pasquinade by Benjamin Russell.—J. T. Buckingham, 'Specimens of Newspaper Lit.,' ii. 54.

1806 "The late *gubernatorial* election."—I love what is plain, and hate such bloated nonsense.—*The Balance*, Feb. 4, p. 35.

1809 In 1634 [he] ascended the *gubernatorial* chair (to borrow a favourite though clumsy appellation of modern phraseologists).—W. Irving, 'The Knickerbockers' (1861), p. 113. (N.E.D.)

1813 The gentleman who distributed Votes at the *Gubernatorial* Election in April last.—*Boston-Gazette*, May 13.

1819 Should his master reach the *gubernatorial* chair....Ye who in 1816 called your patriotick Brooks to the *gubernatorial* chair.—*Mass. Spy*, March 24.

1819 My election to the *gubernatorial* chair of this state.—John Geddes of S. Carolina to E. S. Thomas : see the latter's 'Reminiscences,' i. 109 (Hartford, 1840).

1821 A bet was made in Providence, on the late *gubernatorial* election.—*Mass. Spy*, May 9.

1824 It is probable there will be another warmly-contested *Gubernatorial* Election.—*Mass. Yeoman*, Worcester, Feb. 11.

1840 [Mr. Throop] was elevated to the *gubernatorial* chair of the State of New York.—Mr. Vanderpoel of N.Y., House of Repr., May 2 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 373.

1845 The *gubernatorial* candidate of that party had voted against the confirmation of the Texas treaty.—Mr. Dayton of New Jersey in the U.S. Senate, Feb. 24 : *id.*, p. 387, App.

**Gubernatorial—contd.**

- 1855 We have a man to stand at our head in a *gubernatorial* capacity.—Brigham Young, Feb. 18: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 188.
- 1888 It was an uneasy head that wore the *gubernatorial* crown [in Texas, in 1862].—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 219.
- 1910 We decline absolutely to credit the report that Gov. Hughes will accept an appointment to the Supreme Court bench. Having set his hand to the *Gubernatorial* plough, we believe Mr. Hughes will not turn back until he has ploughed the last furrow on December 31.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 21.

**Guess.** Used by Hampole, Chaucer, Wiclif, and Gower: see N.E.D. Mr. Lowell, in his Introduction to the 'Biglow Papers,' writes: "I have never seen any passage adduced where *guess* was used as the Yankee uses it. The word was familiar in the mouths of our ancestors, but with a different shade of meaning from that we have given it, which is something like *rather think*, though the Yankee implies a confident certainty by it when he says 'I guess I *du* !' "

- 1798 I *guess* my husband won't object to my taking one, if they are good and cheap.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 2.
- 1815 You may hear [a Southerner] say "I count"—"I reckon"—"I calculate"; but you would as soon hear him blaspheme as *guess*.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 8.
- 1816 When I pass a house, and see the yard covered with stumps, old hoops, and broken earthen, I *guess* the man is a horse-jockey, and the woman a spinner of street-yarn.—*Mass. Spy*, March 6: from *The Visitor*.
- 1816 It seems to be so generally conceded that [Mr. Monroe], the hero of Bladensburg, will be the next President, that there is hardly room for Yankee *guessing* about it.—*Id.*, Sept. 4.
- 1816 The truth is, we Virginians are no less fond of *guessing* than our Yankee brethren.—Letter to the same, Sept. 11.
- 1818 My boss, I *guess*, ordered me to turn out every coloured man from the store right away. [For fuller quotation see Boss.]—H. B. Fearon, 'Sketches of America,' p. 59 (Lond.).
- 1818 [An old woman who kept a tavern in Long Island *loq.* :] What do you want with a public-house? What is your name? Where are you going? You are from York, I *guess*. You want a bed, I *guess*. Now I *guess*, if you be not a hard character, I will let you have elegant lodgings.—*Id.*, p. 66.
- 1822 But mark, my Sovereigns, it was true;  
For I had shrewdly *guessed*, and knew  
They'd not accede to terms like this.  
*Missouri Intelligencer*, Oct. 22.
- 1823 I *guess* (says he) that we Ohio folk do not manage potatoes as well as they do in Ireland and England.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 177 (Lond.).

**Guess—contd.**

- 1841 As there are a good many Yankees around, I will venture a few guesses as to the manner in which the "secret service money" is applied. I *guess* a portion of it is applied to purchasing wines and suppers, . . . . I *guess* a portion of it goes to pay political drill sergeants for their services. . . . I *guess* a portion of it goes to pay for gingerbread and liquor. . . . I *guess* a good deal of it goes to pay the printer. —Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, House of Repr., Feb. 20 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 343, App.
- 1842 Let Pennsylvania, with her forty millions, and Maryland, and Indiana, repudiate, and so on and so on, and by that time I *guess* we shall know something of the merits of repudiation.—Mr. Arnold of Tennessee, the same, July 2 : *id.*, p. 573, App.
- 1849 If the proposition were adopted, he reckoned, yea, being a Yankee, he *guessed*, that the House would have . . . . much trouble.—Mr. Root of Ohio, the same, Dec. 13 : *id.*, p. 26.
- 1857 I am a Yankee *guesser* ; and I *guess* that James Buchanan has ordered this expedition to appease the wrath of the angry hounds who are howling around him.—Brigham Young, July 26 : 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 77.
- 1888 She walked into the dry goods store  
 With stately step and proud ;  
 She turned the frills and laces o'er,  
 And pushed aside the crowd ;  
 She asked to see some rich brocade,  
 Mohair, and grenadines ;  
 She looked at silk of every shade  
 And then at velveteens ;  
 She sampled jackets blue and red ;  
 She tried on nine or ten ;  
 And then she tossed her head, and said  
 She *guessed* she'd call again.  
*Texas Siftings*, June 23 (Farmer).

**Gulch.** Quot. 1832 furnishes the probable (Dutch) origin of this word.

- 1832 He saw flourishing grass cut on the declining hill back of the City Hall towards the *Kolch*.—Watson, 'Historic Tales of N.Y.,' p. 92.
- 1850 The word *gulch* denotes a mountain ravine, . . . . steep, abrupt, and inaccessible.—Bayard Taylor, 'Eldorado,' p. 87. (N.E.D.)
- 1851 By the time you have finished . . . . building a Mint, the gold mines in California may be as dry as the *gulches* from which the gold is gathered in midsummer.—Mr. Thompson of Pa., House of Repr., Jan. 31 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 399.
- 1854 I was obliged to deviate from a straight line to avoid the *gulches*.—*Putnam's Mag.*, iii. 26 (Jan.).
- 1862 Discovery of a New *Gulch*.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Nov. 20.



## Guleh—contd.

- 1869 I eyed with no great cheerfulness the unrailed, rough, rickety-looking bridges over "*gulches*," seventy feet deep in some places.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 333 (Sept.).
- 1890 Log cabins were constructed around among the ravines and *gulches* in all suitable localities.—Haskins, 'Argonauts of California,' p. 58.
- 1909 It was a settlement of log cabins and rough board shacks in an opening between two mountain peaks, too narrow to be called a valley and too wide to be called a *gulch*.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 22.

**Gulch-man, Gulch-miner.** Those who live and work in the gulches.

- 1869 The unfortunate politician is "corraled" by the mountaineers, the *gulchmen*, or the settlers. [For a fuller quotation see CORRAL, v.]—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 210.
- 1860 As a rule, the most successful *gulch-miners* are most improvident.—*Id.*, p. 240.
- 1883 "*Gulch mining*," the earliest form of gold-digging, consists in washing the sandy detritus of river valleys, and collecting the free gold which subsides by virtue of its specific gravity.—D. Pidgeon, 'An Engineer's Holiday,' p. 132 (Lond.).

**Gum.** To humbug. As noun, a humbug.

- 1843 Now this was all *gum* ; Sam could not read a word.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 255.
- 1844 He was speaking of the "moon hoax," which *gummed* so many learned philosophers.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 189.
- 1848 You can't *gum* me, I tell ye now, an' so you needn't try.  
'Biglow Papers,' No. 9.
- 1855 Jonathan exclaimed, "You can't *gum* it over me."—*Weekly Oregonian*, June 16.
- 1855 Look hyur, stranger, do I look as if I could be *gummed* that easy.—E. W. Farnham, 'Life in Prairie Land,' ii. 65.

**Gumbo.** A vegetable out of which a rich soup, also called gumbo, is made.

- 1810 *Gumbo* is made by boiling ocroe till it is tender, and seasoning it with a little bit of fat bacon.—F. Cuming, 'Tour,' p. 311 (Pittsburgh).
- 1819 The dish of dishes in New Orleans is a French dish, called *gumbo*. It is a kind of save-all, salmagundi soup, made of the ends of every variety of flesh, mingled with rice, and seasoned with chopped sassafras, or with okra, a vegetable esculent.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 130 (Boston, 1824).
- 1829 [They were eating] a very nice mess of stuff, which I took to be curry. But I found it was called *gumbo*, a sort of gelatinous vegetable soup.—Basil Hall, 'Travels in N. America,' iii. 332.

**Gumbo**—*contd.*

- 1832 In Louisiana, *gumbo*, a compound soup, is much used, and at New Orleans it is sold in the streets.—S. G. Goodrich, 'System of Universal Geography,' p. 260 (Boston).
- 1833 [She] resolutely refused, through life, to eat *gumbo-soup*.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 130 (Phila.).
- 1833 His wife was an excellent manager, made charming *gumbo-soup*, and could interpret dreams.—*Id.*, p. 154.
- 1845 At St. Peter's [Ill.] there is a large commerce carried on between the whites and redskins, for beads and whiskey, in exchange for skins and *gumbo*.—*Bangor Mercury*, n.d.
- 1854 I lay the fattening *gumbo* to my soul, that it is because, &c.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 20.
- 1859 *Gumbo*. The Southern name for what is called in the North Okra, the pod of the *Hibiscus esculentus*.—Bartlett.

**Gumbo.** The "hard pan" underlying good soil; frequently a blue or black clay.—'Dialect Notes,' i. 236.

- 1835 I am on business of importance,—more depends on it than your paltry *gumbo* town is worth.—James Hall, 'Tales of the Border,' p. 172 (Phila.).
- 1881 Such a thing as hard-pan, bed-rock near the surface, or *gumbo*, is not to be found [in Nebraska].—*Chicago Times*, April 16. (N.E.D.)

**Gumbo.** A poor white.

- 1834 [The seats were] in three divisions; the officers with their families furnished one, the soldiers another, and "*gumboes*," Indians, and a negro servant or two, made up the third.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' ii. 3 (Lond., 1835).

**Gumbo-limbo.** See quotation.

- 1837 [The Indians] make bird-lime from the juice of the Gum Elemi, which they call *Gumbo-limbo*. . . . Gum Elemi, called by the inhabitants *Gumbo-limbo*, is a large spreading tree, with a smooth brown bark, which has the appearance of having been varnished.—John L. Williams, 'Territory of Florida,' pp. 26, 98 (N.Y.).

**Gum-log, or Gum.** A gum tree, or its trunk when cut down.

- 1817 Any portion so cut off is called a *gum*, a name probably arising from the almost exclusive application of the gum tree to these purposes.—J. Bradbury, 'Travels in America,' p. 286n. (N.E.D.)
- 1836 A chap just about as rough hewn as if he had been cut out of a *gum log* with a broad axe.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 82 (Phila.).
- 1836 I can grin like a hyena, until the bark will curl off a *gum log*.—*Id.*, p. 186.
- 1845 [I hid] the old clothes in the hollow of a *gum*.—W. G. Simms, 'The Wigwam and the Cabin,' p. 103 (Lond.).

**Gump.** A simpleton. Probably of Scottish origin.

1825 Sort of a naiteral too, I guess; rather a *gump*, hey?—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 42. (N.E.D.)

1846 Tell ye jest the eend I've come to,  
Arter cipherin' plaguy smart;  
An' it makes a handy sum, tu,  
Any *gump* could larn by heart.

'Biglow Papers,' No. 1.

1851 I wouldn't be a *gump*, ef I was you.—'Simon Suggs,' p. 179.

1856 He's the consarndest old *gump* tew t' ever was.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 9.

1858 Then I, like a *gump*, would choke up more, and carry my heart in my mouth.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, li. 371 (April).

**Gums, Gum-shoes.** India-rubber overshoes; "rubbers."

1859 [The word] *Gums* is often applied to India-rubber shoes.—Bartlett.

1872 Forbidding him....to leave his *gum-shoes* in her hall.—*Morning Post*, Jan. 9 (Farmer).

**Gun.** A revolver

1909 In all the shifting play of frontier politics, [young Stewart] played a prominent part. More than once the fact that he always carried a "*gun*," and could be relied upon to shoot straight, saved him from serious trouble.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 26.

**Gunja.** See quotation.

1852 [The damsels are] spreading their baskets of cakes, *gunjas*, as they call them, and boiling huge vessels of coffee.—'As Good as a Comedy,' p. 50 (Phila.).

**Gunning.** Shooting; especially hunting.

a.1622. Forc'd by some yelping cute to give the greyhounds view,

Which are at length let slip, when *gunning* out they go.

Drayton's 'Poly-Olbion,' xxiii. (N.E.D.)

1624 There is lesse danger in't then *gunning*, Sanchio.—Fletcher, 'Rule a Wife,' i. 2. (N.E.D.)

1767 All persons coming to *gun* on said Island after Game.—'New England Register' (1860), xiv. 47. (N.E.D.)

1770 Some young men, who had been a *gunning*, went to Beaman's Tavern.—*Mass. Gazette*, June 11.

1770 Mr. Smith was out a *gunning*; his Gun went off accidentally, while he was charging her, which immediately killed him.—*Id.*, Aug. 23.

1770 H. H. Williams of Noddles-Island forbids "all persons from *Gunning* on said Island."—*Boston-Gazette*, Sept. 3.

1779 Our men went out this day *gunning*.—'New England Register,' xvi. 29. (N.E.D.)

1809 Mr. Joseph Bagley and Mr. Obed Rice went down the river, *gunning*.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 22.

1825 Out a *gunnin'* ruther late, mister, today?—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 112.

1829 *Gunning*. The firing of guns in and about our streets has become a serious evil.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 30.

1837 Two men in Camden N.J. were *gunning* a few days since.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Sept. 9, p. 2/1.

**Gunning**—*contd.*

- 1843 *Gunning* !—alas !—is that degrading appellation to be applied to hunting ?—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 122.
- 1848 Two fellers, Isrel named and Joe,  
One Sundy mornin' 'greed to go  
*Agunnin'* soon 'z the bells wuz done  
And meetin' finally begun,  
So 'st no one wouldn't be about  
Ther Sabbath-breakin' to spy out.  
J. R. Lowell, 'The Two Gunners.'
- 1866 Well, I used to be almost everlastingly a *gunning*.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 67.
- Guy.** To make fun of.
- 1872 The Roman street-boy who *guyed* the gladiators from the dizzy gallery.—Mark Twain, 'Innocents Abroad,' p. 203. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 [Though the accidental shooting of the dog] was a loss keenly felt, there was no resisting the chance to *guy* the hunter.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 164.
- 1888 We wanted to see if the residents had told us stories about [the ants in Texas] just to *guy* us.—*Id.*, p. 193.
- 1888 The poor officer who had been so *guyed* did not gratify his tormentors by getting angry.—*Id.*, p. 378.
- 1890 I was rather incredulous of their stories, as I had been so often "*guyed*."—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 117.
- 1904 Our Republican friends still received us socially, and with warmth, but *guyed* us, some of them, unmercifully.—Claiborne, 'Old Virginia,' p. 175.
- Guyascutus, the.** The story of this wonderful beast is told, under the name of "Gyanousa," in the *Knickerbocker Mag.*, July, 1846, xxviii. 36 ; also by Major Jack Downing, April 15, 1862. A couple of Yankees, going south, ran short of funds. So they agreed that one of them should personate a wild beast, the "Guyascutus," the other acting as showman. After the gate-money was collected, the showman made the Guyascutus howl and rattle his chains, and then pretended that he had broken loose ; whereupon the spectators fled, and the two Yankees divided the proceeds.
- 1849 There were....four young wolves, one "prock," one "*guyanosa*," and a young Penobscot ice-breaker.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xxxiv. 93 (July).
- 1854 The "*gyastacutas*" was a nail-keg, with a raw hide strained over it, like a drum-head, and inside of the keg, attached to the centre of this drum-head, a string hung, with which the instrument was worked by pulling in the string and "let fly." [This was one of the pieces of the "Calathumpian Band," used for charivaris.]—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 94.
- 1855 Whither shall the Democracy flee ? The *Guyascutis* am loose !—*Olympia (W.T.) Pioneer*, June 22.
- 1855 The *Guyascutus* must be caught.—*Id.*, July 6.



**Hack**—*contd.*

- 1842 Drivers of *hacks*, omnibuses, &c.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, July 19.
- 1844 [He] meekly bore indignities upon a matter of precedence of a *hack*.—‘Scribblings and Sketches,’ p. 156.
- 1846 Fourteen *hacks* and a dearbourn wagon at the tail of the funeral.—‘Quarter Race in Kentucky,’ &c., p. 49.
- 1848 The depo was so close that I jest fit my way through the *hack-drivers* to the cars.—Major Jones, ‘Sketches of Travel,’ p. 57.
- 1848 I was like the gall what married the chap to git rid of him, and I got into the fust *hack* and druv off.—*Id.*, p. 58.
- 1848 [He] was roarin and pitchin among the *hackmen* and porters like a blind dog in a meat-house; and tryin to git into the crowd what was gathered all round the baggage like flies round a fat gourd.—*Id.*, p. 109.
- 1848 The *hackman* ax’d me what hotel I wanted to go to.—*Id.*, p. 110.
- 1850 We find ourselves in Boston, surrounded by eager *hackmen*.—Hawthorne, ‘American Note-books,’ p. 370. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 Simon rose to the post of Richard’s *hack-driver*.—Sylvester Judd, ‘Richard Edney,’ p. 462.
- 1853 A *hack* drove up furiously, and a veiled lady hastily descended.—‘Life Scenes,’ p. 130.
- 1857 A *hack*, rapidly driven, came suddenly upon her.—*San Francisco Call*, May 15.
- 1869 Dr. E. E. Hale, in ‘Round the World in a *Hack*,’ rather oddly explains that “on Massachusetts Bay” a *hack* is a hired carriage.

**Hackback.** See quotation.

- 1824 *Hackback* is properly a gourd; but since [the Indians] have seen glass bottles and decanters, they call them by the same name.—*Mass. Spy*, March 3.

**Hackberry.** The *Celtis occidentalis*.

- 1796 [The] papaw, the *hackberry*, and the cucumber-trees.—Morse, ‘American Geography,’ i. 636. (N.E.D.)
- 1817 [The alluvion land produces] . . . nettle-tree, or *hackberry* (*Celtis crassifolia*), &c.—John Bradbury, ‘Travels,’ p. 258.
- 1818 It is named as the *Celtis crassifolia* in W. Darby’s ‘Emigrants’ Guide,’ p. 80.
- 1818 See TREE.
- 1830 [The timber in Sagamon Co., Ill., is] . . . linn, cotton wood, *hackberry*, buckeye, &c.—*Mass. Spy*, July 7. (Linn is the lime or linden.)
- 1847 We saw many peccan, fig, mulberry, willow, and *hackberry* trees.—‘Life of Benjamin Lundy,’ p. 58 (Phila.).
- 1848 He saw [the ocelot] ascending the trunk of a huge *hackberry*.—C. W. Webber, ‘Old Hicks the Guide,’ p. 90 (N.Y.).

**Hackmatack.** See quotations.

1792 On some mountains we find a shrubbery of hemlock and spruce. . . . These are called by the Indians *Hakmantaks*.—J. Belknap, 'Hist. of N. Hampshire,' iii. 33. (N.E.D.)

1801 My Tabitha Towzer is fair,  
No Guinea pig ever was sweeter,  
Like a *hackmatack* slender and spare,  
And sweet as a muskrat, or sweeter.  
'The Port Folio,' i. 264 (Phila.).

1821 *Hacmontac* I take to be the Indian name.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 36. (N.E.D.)

1834 He was like one of those warped, gnarled, scrub *hackmatacks* of the second growth, that are found in great plenty in Barre swamp.—*Vermont Free Press*, Nov. 29.

1851 The American Larch [is] known very generally in New England by the aboriginal name of *Hackmatack*.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 33 (N.Y.).

**Hail Columbia.** The jocose use of the phrase is here illustrated.

1854 The note in which he says we gave him *Hale Columby*.—Mrs. Bailey in *Oregon Weekly Times*, Sept. 9.

1861 People's impulsiver down here than wut our folks to home be,  
An' kin' o' go it 'ith a resh in raisin' *Hail Columby*.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 1.

1869 Notwithstanding the holy sphere in which she moves, she occasionally combs the head of the Prophet with a three-legged stool, raises *Hail Columbia* in the very sanctuary of the holies, and smashes a chair over the piano to prove her devout affection for the sacred calling she has accepted.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 170.

**Hailstorm.** A concoction of "hard liquor" with small lumps of ice in it. Sometimes HAILSTONE.

1835 It was agreed to go on drinking and stimulating with mint-julep, mint-sling, bitters, *hailstone*, snowstorm, apple-toddy, &c.—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' ii. 61.

1838 "Mint julaps" before breakfast, "*hailstorms*" at dinner, and "old Monongahela" at night.—B. Drake, 'Tales and Sketches,' p. 27 (Cincinnati).

1839 [He] rested for a moment from the labour of compounding slings and *hailstones*.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' i. 128.

1847 May I never drink a *hailstorm* again, if, &c.—J. K. Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 207 (Phila.).

**Hair trigger.** The N.E.D. gives only 1830; but the "Ketland" people, 1806, were probably English. The writer is informed by the director of Westley Richards & Co. that this trigger, called "Stecker," was invented at Munich in 1543. The French call it the "double detente." See Aug. Demmin's 'Weapons of War,' tr. C. C. Black, p. 522, with picture (Lond., 1870).

1806 I know not whether *hair-trigger'd* pistols are in use in Pennsylvania.—*The Balance*, Jan. 7, p. 5.



**Hair trigger—contd.**

- 1806 *Hair-triggered* Pistols,—the surest shot with a steady hand.—*Id.*, July 22, p. 227.
- 1806 Mr. Wallach announces that he has received “a supply of rifles, with or without *hair triggers*,” made by Ketland & Co.—*The Repertory*, Nov. 25.
- 1825 I managed to exhibit a neat pair of *hair triggers* to these two worthies.—J. K. Paulding, ‘John Bull in America,’ p. 50 (Lond.).
- 1826 In his duel with Henry Clay, John Randolph said to his second, “Although I am one of the best shots in Virginia, yet I never fire with the *hair trigger*.”—‘Life of Randolph,’ ii. 260 (1851).
- 1841 When the bill is reported, some *hair-trigger* gentleman of your party will spring to the floor, [and] move the previous question.—Mr. Weller of Ohio, House of Repr., Aug. 4 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 499, App.

**Half-baked.** Not thorough-going ; irresolute ; sometimes (as in English slang) silly.

- 1621 Our profest Popelings, and *halfe-baked* Protestants.—Sanderson, ‘Sermon xii.’ (N.E.D.)
- a.1628 They are either done withoute heate, or but *half-baked*.—Sermon by Preston. (N.E.D.)
- 1636 Certaine Hermophrodite Divines, meere Centaures in Religion ; Saint Augustines Amphibions, in resemblance Iewes and Christians both, in truth neither : *Cakes on the hearth not turn’d*, certaine dow-bak’d professors, which have a tongue for Geneva, and a heart for Amsterdam ; their pretence for Old England, and their project for New.—Humphrey Sydenham’s Sermon on “The Foolish Prophet,” preached *ad clerum* at Taunton, June 22.
- 1842 It is sometimes a term of reproach with us, in speaking of a silly fellow, that he is not *half baked*.—Mrs. Kirkland, ‘Forest Life,’ i. 41.
- 1847 Perhaps some of that majority are but *half-baked* Democrats—need grinding over again.—Mr. Wick of Indiana, House of Repr., Jan. 26 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 264.

**Half-breed.** A person of mixed race ; usually, the offspring of a white father and an Indian mother.

- 1775 Before the English traders came among them, there were scarcely any *half-breed*, but now they abound among the younger sort.—B. Romans, ‘Florida,’ p. 82. (N.E.D.)
- 1791 His father [was] a *half breed*, betwixt a Creek and a white man.—W. Bartram, ‘Carolina,’ p. 440. (N.E.D.)
- 1807 A few civilized Indians and *half breeds*.—Pike, ‘Sources of the Mississippi,’ iii. Appendix, 33. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 If there were no other considerations, I would be for extinguishing the title of these *half-breeds* to this portion of country [in Minnesota].—Mr. Dodge of Iowa, U.S. Senate, Sept. 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 2034. [The word is much used in this debate.]

**Half-breeds.** A nickname for those Republicans who declined to go all lengths with the "Stalwarts" in 1881.

1881 A Cabinet of "*Half-breeds*," as the party of Civil Service reform are called.—*Daily News*, Dec. 7. (N.E.D.)

1888 Bryce's 'American Commonwealth.' (N.E.D.)

**Half-horse, half-alligator.** A ludicrous appellation of boatmen and backwoodsmen in former days.

1809 The back-wood-men of Kentucky are styled *half man, half horse, and half alligator* by the settlers in Mississippi, and held accordingly in great respect and abhorrence.—W. Irving, 'Hist. of N.Y.,' ii. 79 (1812).

1812 Curious Terms of Defiance. New-Orleans, April 24. "*Half horse half alligator*" has hitherto been the boast of our up-country boatmen, when quarreling. The present season however has made a complete change. A few days ago two of them quarreled in a boat at Natchez, when one of them jumping ashore declared with a horrid oath that he was a *steamboat*. His opponent immediately followed him, swearing he was an *earthquake* and would shake him to pieces.—*Salem Gazette*, June 12.

1814 The Mississippi navigator, who affirmed himself to be *all alligator* but his head, which was of aquafortis.—*Analectic Mag.*, July, iv. 63 (Phila.).

1816 The great western road is travelled by the west country wagoners, some of whom, you know, are "*half horse, half alligator*," others "part earthquake, and a little steamboat."—James K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' ii. 89 (N.Y., 1817).

1820 Eight or ten of these "*half horse and half alligator*" gentry, commonly called Ohio boatmen.—Hall's 'Letters from the West,' p. 47 (Lond.).

1823 We raised a bank to hide our breasts,  
Not that we thought of dying,  
But that we always like to rest  
Unless the game is flying.  
Behind it stood our little force ;  
None wish'd it to be greater,  
For every man was *half a horse*,  
And *half an alligator*.

*New Hampshire Patriot* (Concord), Feb. 17.

1824 We have often heard of a Yankee Dutchman, and we don't see but a French Indian is just as consistent a character. We suppose he was a kind of *half-horse, half-aligator* chap. At all events he has a devil of a queer name.—*The Microscope*, Albany, Feb. 28.

1826 When the warmth of whiskey in [a Kentuckian's] stomach is added to his natural energy, he becomes in succession *horse, alligator, and steam-boat*.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 78,

**Half-horse, half-alligator—contd.**

- 1826 They claim to be the genuine and original breed, compounded of the *horse, alligator, and snapping turtle*. In their new and strange curses, you discover new features of atrocity.—*Id.*, p. 98.
- 1826 We found in New Orleans many boatmen, “*half horse and half alligator*.”—*Id.*, p. 308.
- 1827 He was a patriot to the very finger nails, and the *steam boats, snapping turtles, &c.*, looked upon him as being destined to establish permanently the inviolable rights of his native state.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 24 : from the *Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle*.
- 1828 A “salt river roarer.”—One of those two-fisted backwoodsmen, “*half horse, half alligator*, and a little touched with the snapping turtle,” went lately to see a caravan of wild beasts. After giving them a careful examination, he offered to bet the owner, says the *Western Mercury*, that he could whip his lion in an open ring ; and he might throw in all his monkeys, and let the zebra kick him occasionally during the fight.—*Richmond Whig*, Dec. 9, p. 2/5.
- 1829 A bully near the mountains, next to the land of *half horse and half alligator* men, commenced his journey with the intent of whipping Francisco or being whipped himself.—*Id.*, Feb. 11 : from the *Georgia Courier*.
- 1832 A marine is a sort of ambidextrous animal, *half-horse, half-alligator*.—E. C. Wines, ‘Two Years and a Half in the Navy,’ i. 45 (Phila.).
- 1831 John Bull had christened this son of his by the name of Jonathan ; but by and by, when he became a man grown, being a good hearty fellow, about *half horse half alligator*, his friends and neighbours gave him the nickname of Uncle Sam.—J. K. Paulding, ‘Uncle Sam and his Boys,’ in *The New York Mirror*.
- 1833 The backwoodsmen, even the *half horse, half alligator* breed, when boasting of their exploits, always add : “I can stand anything but a clock pedler.”—‘Sketches of David Crockett,’ p. 151 (N.Y.).
- 1833 I’m that same David Crockett, fresh from the backwoods, *half horse, half alligator*,—a little touched with the *snapping-turtle* ; can wade the Mississippi, leap the Ohio, ride upon a streak of lightning, and slip without a scratch down a honey-locust ; can whip my weight in wild cats,—and if any gentleman pleases, for a ten dollar bill, he may throw in a panther,—hug a bear too close for comfort, and eat any man opposed to Jackson.—*Id.*, p. 164.
- 1835 The *half horse and half alligator* Kentucky boatman.—Ingraham, ‘The South West,’ i. 210.

**Half-horse, half-alligator—contd.**

- 1836 It has been said that we are divided into three parts, to wit: *alligator*, *horse*, and *snapping-turtle*; and my colleague's candidate for the presidency should have recollected that, when the *horse* was removed, there still remained the *alligator* and the *snapping-turtle*; one celebrated for holding on, and the other for destroying.—Mr. Hawes of Kentucky in the House of Repr., April: *Cong. Globe*, p. 349, App.
- 1836 There are some first-rate men [in Little Rock] of the real *half-horse*, *half-alligator* breed, with a sprinkling of the *steamboat*, and such as grow nowhere on the face of the universal earth but just about the back-bone of North America.—'Crockett in Texas,' p. 60.
- 1836 I asked the ragged hunter, who was a smart active young fellow, of the *steamboat and alligator* breed, whether he was a rhinoceros or a hyena, as he was so eager to fight with the invaders.—*Id.*, p. 186.
- 1836 [We hope the Mayor] will prove a real horse, as they say in Kentucky, and let fly his heels at all street abuses. Or if he be only *half horse*, we should be satisfied, provided the other half be *alligator*.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Oct. 22.
- 1837 Your Kentuckian, with his *horse* blood, and his *alligator* blood, and his *steamboat* blood, and his *earthquake* blood, is no more to your real Down Easter than a racoon to a catamount.—*Id.*, Jan. 12.
- 1838 Stones, clubs, and brickbats were hurled by the assailing party, and returned with equal violence; *half horse half alligator* encountered *all Potawatamie*; a *Mississippi snag* was loosed from its moorings by a *full-grown snapping-turtle*; the *yallar flower of the desert* bruised the nose of *old Tecumseh*.—B. Drake, 'Tales and Sketches,' p. 92 (Cincinnati).
- 1838 That "*horse and alligator race*," now fast fading from the West, videlicet the Mississippi boatman.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 61-62 (N.Y.).
- 1839 In my previous travels I had met very little of that "*half horse, half alligator*" character so generally attributed to the inhabitants of the West.—John Plumbe, 'Sketches of Iowa,' &c., p. 59 (St. Louis).
- 1847 The *half horse and half alligator* species of men, who are peculiar to "Old Mississippi," and who appear to gain a livelihood simply by going up and down the river.—T. B. Thorpe, 'The Big Bear of Arkansas,' p. 14.
- 1852 If we traverse the prairies of the West, we shall encounter a race of men, "*half horse, half alligator*," with a touch of the *snapping turtle*, able to "whip their weight in wild cats."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xvii. 177.
- 1853 A stalwart Kentuckian,—one of that semi-amphibious "*half horse and half alligator*" breed we read about in the days of Nimrod Wildfire and Mike Fink.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xli. 471 (May).

### Half-horse, half-alligator—*contd.*

- 1858           Ye cannot count me as I run,  
I play with stars at pitch and toss ;  
I am the uncle of the sun,  
*Half alligator and half hoss.*  
*Id.*, li. 215 (Feb.).
- 1859           The Great Annihilator,  
*Half ass, half alligator,*  
Hath made an offal speech.  
*Olympia (W.T.) Pioneer*, Feb. 11.
- 1860 The Rev. Mr. Cobb of Alabama has been for thirteen years  
a member of the house, and a pillar of the crustaceous  
Baptist faith. He is a model man, of the type *half horse,*  
*half alligator*.—*Oregon Argus*, Feb. 18 : from *The N.Y.*  
*Times*.
- 1860 These *half horse and half alligator* sort of politicians are  
becoming a stench in the nostrils of the American people.  
—*Oregon Argus*, Oct. 13.
- Half-joe.** A Portuguese coin of the value of four dollars, once  
current along the Atlantic coast. See also JOHANNES.
- 1772 Let Mr. Ripley have a guinea, *half a joe*, and nine coppers.  
—Chase, ‘Hist. of Dartmouth Coll.’ i. 262n. (N.E.D.)
- 1775 Col. Prescott engaged a number of people from the suburbs,  
at *Half a Joe* per man, to join a party of regulars from the  
garrison, and to go out against [Col. Ethan Allen].—*New-*  
*port Mercury*, Oct. 30.
- 1777 Guineas, *half joes*, and milled dollars in as high estimation  
as in Philadelphia.—J. Q. Adams, ‘Works,’ ix. 470.  
(N.E.D.)
- 1777 No ! he n’ere fears or friends or foes, Sir,  
E’en should they squeeze him by the nose, Sir,  
For he can still clip on *half J—s*, Sir.  
*Maryland Journal*, Dec. 9.
- 1778 “A *half Jo*.” is reckoned at £3.—*Id.*, Aug. 25.
- 1783 Stolen, . . . Fourteen Guineas and a Half, and Four *Half-*  
*Johannes*, wrapped up in paper.—*Id.*, April 1.
- 1784 One *Half-Joe* is offered for apprehending each.—Runaway  
advt., *id.*, Sept. 7.
- 1784 He offered to assign over his indentures for two *half joes*.—  
*Id.*, Oct. 5.
- 1787 If taken ten miles or under, I will give a *Half Joe* ; if 20,  
*Two Half Joes* ; if 30, Three *Half Joes* ; if 40, Four *Half*  
*Joes* ; and if 50 or upward, Five *Half Joes*.—Runaway  
advt., *id.*, Nov. 9.
- 1805 A bag of *half-joes*, worth 2440 dollars.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 20.
- 1820 Here’s to those that has old clothes,  
And never a wife to mend ’em ;  
A plague on those that has *half joes*,  
And hasn’t a heart to spend ’em.  
Hall, ‘Letters from the West,’ p. 92 (Lond.).

**Halfway Covenant, The.** An arrangement whereby all persons of upright and decorous lives were considered as church members, and so entitled to the exercise of political privileges. The advocates of the movement, which was bitterly opposed, organized themselves as a new society in Boston, in the year 1669.

1769 "The Halfway Covenant. A Dialogue. By Joseph Bellamy, D.D.," a tract against the Halfway Covenant, was sold in Boston by Kneeland and Adams, price six coppers.—*Mass. Gazette*, March 9.

1856 The giving out of the tokens, and the *Halfway Covenant*, though now dispensed with, were both continued into Dr. Dana's ministry (1822 to 1826).—Lawrence's 'New Hampshire Churches,' p. 94: see *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. viii. 5.

**Halves, To or On the.** On a basis of equal division of proceeds.

1710 It is usual....for the owners to let their Lands *to halves* to their Tenants.—Prideaux, 'Origin of Tithes,' p. 104. (N.E.D.)

1789 To be let, *on the halves*, a good farm.—*Mass. Spy*, March 19.

1833 "[He] lives by preachin' *at the halves*, or may be for his board an' hoss-keep a' Sabba-days." "Preaching *at the halves*,—how's that?" said the southerner. "Why, don't you know? in partnership for what's taken up arter the sarmon's over; sometimes they go snacks, an' sometimes they sell out aforehand for so much over an' above their reglar wages." "How—snacks—hey? I don't understand you." "I want to know," exclaimed the other down-easter. "Well, you do know," replied the southerner, mistaking the northern exclamation for a formal interrogatory.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 45.

1853 I've tended bar, worked farms *to halves*, been twice to the South seas.—*Putnam's Mag.*, i. 533 (May).

1866 *To the halves* still survives among us, though apparently obsolete in England. It means to let or hire a piece of land, receiving half the profit in money or in kind.—Lowell, *Introd.*, 'Biglow Papers.' (N.E.D.)

**Hammock.** A rounded elevation of land, usually wooded.

1556 Right above that into the land, a round *hammock* and greene which we took to be trees.—Hakluyt, 'Voyages,' p. 104. (N.E.D.)

1599 The land....was full of *Hammocks*, some high some lowe, with high trees on them.—*Id.*, ii. 58. (N.E.D.)

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1775 The *hammock land* is so called from its appearing in tufts among the lofty pines....The true *hammock* soil is a mixture of clay and a blackish sand.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 17 (N.Y.).

1775 The clump or *hommock* of pine trees standing near the north end of the island.—*Id.*, p. lxxxii., Appendix.

**Hammock**—*contd.*

- 1775 A few spots of *hammock*, or upland, are found on this island.—*Id.*, p. 283.
- 1818 That species of slopes called *hammock*.—W. Darby, 'Emigrants' Guide,' p. 116.
- 1826 A tract of country, in the south denominated "*hammock-land*," and in Ohio "second bottom."—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 24.
- 1828 A piece of ground thickly wooded, whether a prairie or a hill, and distinguished from the open oak and hickory land, or the immense forests of thinly scattered pines....The word has been confounded with *hummocks*, used by mariners to designate the knolls or small elevations along the coast.—*N. American Review*, April, p. 486 (Bartlett). [But is it not identical with the word *hummock* ?]
- 1837 Small *hammocks* skirt these navigable waters, presenting eligible situations for country seats....Occasionally *cabbage hammocks* of considerable extent rise in the midst of these glades.—John L. Williams, 'Territory of Florida,' pp. 125, 142 (N.Y.).
- 1838 The horses were ordered behind a sink hole, and the detachment charged the *hammock* amid a galling fire from the Indians.—*The Jeffersonian*, Albany, June 16, p. 144.
- 1840 [The arms of Napoleon], which could easily beat up the narrow Pontine marshes, could have done nothing in the unexplored, impenetrable *hammocks* and deep morasses [of Florida].—Mr. Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 9 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 83, App.
- 1840 The *hammocks* and everglades form a covering and hiding places for the savages, which render them impervious to the keenest eye and the most vigilant search.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio in the House of Repr., March 26 : *id.*, p. 278, App.
- 1855 The little swamp islet, or *hammock*, upon which the cabin stood.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' p. 12 (N.Y.).

**Hand-car.** A car propelled by hand-power.

- 1850 I left the *hand-car*, and entered a railway train.—Lyell, 'Second Visit to the U.S.,' ii. 14. (N.E.D.)

**Hand-fisher.** One who catches fish with his hands.

- 1855 In the deeper places of such streams must the *handfisher* seek his prey.—'Captain Priest,' p. 147.

**Hand-gallop.** An easy gallop. Also used as verb.

- 1675 If it rides but a Trot or a *Hand-gallop*.—Dryden's 'Works,' viii. 626. (N.E.D.)
- 1771 I have seen a waggon pass....at a *hand-gallop*.—Smollett, 'Humphry Clinker,' i. 29. (N.E.D.)
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- 1783 [The mare] paces, trots, and *hand-gallops* well.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Jan. 24.

**Hand-sled or -sledge.** One propelled by hand.

- 1836 [He was] bound down upon a large *hand sled* by a strong cotton handkerchief.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ii. 87 (Dec.).  
 1842 Then commenced the delightful sport of sliding down hill, seated in a *hand-sled*—the boys in the front part, and the girls in the hinder part.—‘*Lowell Offering*,’ ii. 116.  
 1856 They have given us *hand-sledges* for our baggage.—Kane, ‘*Arctic Exploration*,’ ii. 249. (N.E.D.)

**Hand-write.** Hand-writing.

- 1693 Deny your own *Hand-Write* if you dare.—‘*Scotch Presb. Eloquence*’ (1738), p. 116. (N.E.D.)  
 1836 He has got a paper in the captain’s *hand-write* to show him the way.—Beverly Tucker, ‘*The Partisan Leader*,’ p. 16 (N.Y., 1861).  
 1856 Thar’s his name in *handwrite* ! Hyar’s a boy that reads this *handwrite*.—W. G. Simms, ‘*Eutaw*,’ p. 429 (N.Y.).

**Handle.** To keep in stock ; to deal in.

- 1888 It does not pay to “*handle*” books, or to keep the run of new publications.—C. D. Warner in *Harper’s Mag.*, p. 776. (N.E.D.)

**Handle, fly off the.** See FLY.

**Handle, go off the.** See Go.

**Handy.** At hand ; convenient for use.

- 1650 It was placed *handy*, and convenient for such as went up to sacrifice.—Fuller’s ‘*Pisgah-Sight*,’ i. 400. (N.E.D.)  
 1775 i....found mahogany growing so *handy* that i took in about 4,000 feet of it.—B. Romans, ‘*Florida*,’ p. 54, Appendix. (N.E.D.)  
 1819 Having no milk *handy*, [I rubbed] the cork to powder.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 1.  
 1852 Knocked down with the shovel or tongs, which ever came *handiest*.—‘*Uncle Tom’s Cabin*,’ ch. xx. (N.E.D.)

**Hang a jury, to.** To reduce it to a state of disagreement.

- 1850 [These men] either caused their acquittal or *hung the jury*, by refusing to agree to any verdict save that of “Not Guilty.”—James Weir, ‘*Lonz Powers*,’ i. 142 (Phila.).

**Hang, get the.** To get the hang of a thing is to understand its “modus operandi.”

- 1845 After they have *acquired the hang* of the tools for themselves.—N. S. Prime, ‘*Hist. of Long Island*,’ p. 82 (Bartlett).  
 1847 The theatre was cleared in an instant,....all running to *get the hang* of the scrape.—Darley, ‘*Drama in Pokerville*,’ p. 67 (Farmer).  
 1847 Some how I can’t *get the hang* of this new master.—D. P. Thompson, ‘*Locke Amsden*,’ p. 94 (Boston).  
 1848 These Indians are ludicrously superstitious, and if we can ever *get the hang* of their terms in this respect, we can accomplish wonders.—C. W. Webber, ‘*Old Hicks the Guide*,’ p. 114 (N.Y.).

**Hang, get the—contd.**

- 1855 For the first two years, until they *got the "hang"* of things, according to a common saying, . . . they had lost a large amount of money.—Mr. Jones of Tennessee, U.S. Senate, Feb. 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 289, Appendix.
- 1862 [When the telegraph was started,] Zenas was een amost puzzled to deth to *get the hang* of the critter, as he called it.—'Major Jack Downing,' April 29.
- 1869 My watch cannot "*keep the hang*" of the time any more.—Mark Twain, 'New Pilgrim's Progress,' ch. v.
- 1878 I never *got the hang* of it exactly ; but the States was a pressin' the Injins to go, an' some wanted to an' some didn't.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 30.

**Hang up.** To lie by ; not to proceed.

- 1854 When, in reading the President's message, he came to this portion of it, he got befogged, and, in the language of the Kentucky boatman, "*hung up* for the night."—Mr. Perkins of N.Y., House of Repr., Jan. 20 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 108, Appendix.

\*.\* For somewhat similar examples in a transitive sense, see the N.E.D.

**Hang-bird.** The oriole.

- 1851 She's as bad as a *hang bird* that steals my yarn on the grass.—S. Judd, 'Margaret,' i. 40.
- 1854 Past which, in one bright trail, the *hangbird's* flashes blind.—J. R. Lowell, 'An Indian-Summer Reverie.'
- 1856 There are notes of joy in the *hang-bird* and wren.—W. C. Bryant's 'Poems.' (N.E.D.)

**Hanging day.** In America, Friday.

- 1806 Next Friday [the newspaper] promises to make its debut. Friday—that's *hanging day*—but no matter.—*The Balance*, Nov. 11, p. 355.

**Hanging shelf.** One hung on hooks.

- 1825 A *hanging shelf*, such as may be found in every New Englander's farm-house to this day ; loaded with cheeses, ropes of onions, dried apples, &c.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 188.

**Happen.** To be in, or to enter, a place casually. The omission of "to be" or "to go" goes back to the fifteenth century ; N.E.D.

- 1757 *Happening* in company with a colonel of militia, I took occasion, &c.—'Life of John Woolman,' 11th day, 5th month.
- 1800 Some young Americans *happening* at Toulon.—Weems's 'Washington' (1877), i. 5. (N.E.D.)
- 1855 *Happening* into the Suffolk jail on a business errand, we were somewhat startled by hearing our name called.—*Boston Bee*, Feb. (Bartlett).
- 1889 *Happening* into a book auction sale in Boston.—*Boston Journal*, Oct. 29. (N.E.D.)

**Happify.** To make happy.

- 1612 This Prince....One short Mis-hap for ever *Happifies*.—Sylvester, 'Tragedy of Henry the Great.' (N.E.D.)
- 1837-40. If that don't *happify* your heart, then my name's not Sam Slick.—Haliburton, 'The Clockmaker,' p. 79. (N.E.D.)
- 1853 It is one of the most *happifying* subjects that can be named.—Brigham Young, May 8: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 111.
- 1857 The bliss, that can *happify* one hour of a man's being as a Saint, will, upon the same principle, *happify* every hour of his life.—Amasa Lyman at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, July 12: *id.*, v. 35.

**Hard case.** An incorrigible.

- 1842 *The Hardest Kind of a Case.* A big fellow was brought before Alderman B. for abusing, beating, kicking, knocking down, and jumping upon his wife.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, May 21.
- 1846 Some stolen chickens, in dispute between one Lot Corson and a "*hard case*" called Emanuel Allen.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 38 (Phila.).
- 1846 Cabe was as *hard a "case"* as you would meet on a 4th of July in Texas.—*Id.*, p. 60.
- 1848 "What a *hard case* he is," meaning a reckless scapegrace, *mauvais sujet*.—Bartlett.
- 1848 I am aware that there have been some very *hard cases* in Congress. I believe there was one member convicted of forgery and sent to the penitentiary. Was it not so?—Mr. Root of Ohio, House of Repr., April 21: *Cong. Globe*, p. 663.
- 1851 Parson S. was called upon to "preach the funeral" for a *hard case* named Ramm.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxviii. 559 (Nov.).
- 1854 The fellow had the reputation of being the "*hardest case*" about town.—*Id.*, xlv. 165 (Aug.).
- 1856 There was a rather "*hard case*" in a [Georgia] town which shall be nameless.—*Id.*, xlviii. 104 (July).
- 1857 I may be rather a *hard case*, but, the harder a thing is, the more likely scratches are to stay on it.—*Id.*, xlix. 42 (Jan.).
- 1857 The boarders allude to him as a "*hard*" boy, generally.—Thomas B. Gunn, 'New York Boarding Houses,' p. 207.

**Hard cider, hard liquor.** That which intoxicates. In the campaign of 1840, it was commonly said that "Tippecanoe" lived in a log cabin, and drank hard cider. See also COON and LOG CABIN.

- 1840 Mr. Proffit said he had heard, at every cross road in Indiana, the same arguments preached nine hundred and ninety nine times over a barrel of *hard cider*.—House of Repr., Feb. 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 197.
- 1840 Mr. Duncan of Ohio said the Whig party were palming General Harrison off as the "log cabin and *hard cider* candidate." He showed conclusively that he neither drank *hard cider* nor lived in a log cabin, but that he lived on a princely estate.—The same, April 10: *id.*, p. 320.

**Hard cider, hard liquor—*contd.***

- 1842 Gentlemen are continually accounting for their defeat in 1840. They say that people were made drunk upon *hard cider*, and were frightened out of their better judgment by the rattling of a coonskin.—Mr. Arnold of Tennessee, the same, July 2: *id.*, p. 572, Appendix.
- 1848 They had charged [President Harrison] with drinking *hard cider*, which was then considered more dangerous than drinking soup in our day.—Mr. Clingman of N. Carolina, the same, April 27: *id.*, p. 688.
- \* \* \* See also Appendix, XXX. and XXXI.
- 1879 [He was] before the court for selling *hard liquor*, when he had only a license for selling ale.—*Boston Traveller*, Sept. 20. (Century Dict.)

**Hard Dollars, Hard Money, Hard Cash.** Gold and silver, as distinguished from a paper currency.

- 1706 Your mother has a hundred pound in *hard money*.—Farquhar, 'The Recruiting Officer.' (N.E.D.)
- 1778 [They] were going into the Indian country, loaded with *hard money*, vermillion, &c.—*Maryland Journal*, Sept. 8.
- 1779 Corn is sold at four dollars, *hard money*, per bushel.—A. Adams, in J. Q. Adams's 'Family Letters,' p. 365. (N.E.D.)
- 1780 "Three *hard Dollars* Reward" for the recovery of a black Mare.—*New Jersey Gazette*, Nov. 22.
- 1780 The price of this paper, for the future, will be 3s. in produce, or 3s. 9 in *hard money* or the exchange.—*New-Jersey Journal*, Chatham, Dec. 6 and 13.
- 1780 He was told that the trees would in a little time be worth many thousand *hard dollars*.—W. Gordon, 'History of the Am. Revolution,' iii. 311 (Lond., 1788).
- 1783 You acknowledge you paid Mr. Peters, in May 1777, 1005 *hard dollars* in paper. [The writer comments on the contradiction in terms.]—*Maryland Journal*, Feb. 18.
- 1786 Receiving taxes in *hard money*.—*Exchange Advertiser*, Boston, Oct. 12: from a Philadelphia paper.
- 1796 From France we have received the principal part of our *Hard Money*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., July 23.
- 1800 No less a sum than 200,000 *hard dollars*.—*Id.*, Oct. 10
- 1809 Butter and cheese which would sell for [so much] in *hard cash*.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 18.
- 1825 It amounted to one dollar and a quarter, "*hard money*," or ten shillings of York currency.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 137.
- 1833 *Hard money* was as difficult to come at as if it had never been taken from the mines.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of Phila.,' p. 286.
- 1837 He required *hard cash* in return for some corn.—W. Irving, 'Capt. Bonneville,' p. 38. (N.E.D.)

**Hard Dollars, Hard Money, Hard Cash—*contd.***

- 1838 In the South they liked *hard money*, and the answer was, *hard money* you shall have.—Mr. Preston in the Senate, July 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 490.
- 1838 This *hard-money* Administration proposes to pay its debts, and supply a currency to the people, by engraving promises in blue and red ink.—Mr. Goode of Ohio, House of Repr.: *id.*, p. 586, Appendix.
- 1840 What were these charters granted for? That certain individuals might put out bits of paper, stamped with pictures, for which they get the *hard money* that is put out by the Government.—Mr. Benton of Missouri in the U.S. Senate, June 15: *id.*, p. 464.
- 1848 I du believe hard coin the stuff  
 Fer 'lectioneers to spout on;  
 The people's ollers soft enough  
 To make *hard money* out on.  
 Dear Uncle Sam pervides fer his  
 An' gives a good-sized junk to all;  
 I don't care how hard money is,  
 Ez long ez mine's paid punctooal.  
 'Biglow Papers,' No. 6: "The Pious Editor's Creed."

**Hard-hack.** The *Spiræa tomentosa*.

- 1832 The *Hardhack*, a barren bush, usually chooses poor cold ground for its residence and growth.—Williamson, 'History of Maine,' i. 116.
- 1851 A bunch of the white *hardhack*, a cream-like flower, innerly blushing.—Judd's 'Margaret,' ii. 1. (N.E.D.)

**Hard-heads.** Old toppers.

- 1848 Most of the passengers had disappeared for the night, and only a knot of "*hard-heads*" were left upon deck.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 110.

**Hard pan.** See quotations.

- 1821 The stratum immediately under the soil is what is here called *hard pan*, a very stiff loam, closely combined.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 374.
- 1828 The hard stratum of earth that lies below the soil: called the *hard pan*.—Webster's Dict.
- 1829 The farmer comes to what [is called] *hard-pan*, a stiff, impenetrable surface, on which no vegetable substance will grow.—H. Murray, 'North America,' ii. 273. (N.E.D.)
- 1839 A soil with a *hard pan*.—*Farmer's Monthly Visitor*, i. 53 (Concord, N.H.).
- 1842 This [Michigan] soil is based upon something emphatically called "*hard-pan*," which is supposed to prevent the roots of large trees from striking to a proper depth.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 165.



**Hard row to hoe.** A difficult job.

1839 I pity a man that has a helpless, shiftless wife ; he has a *hard row to hoe*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xiii. 419 (May).

1847 God help that poor creatur, said Dick,—she's got a *hard row to hoe*.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 122.

1854 [He] really seems to have "a *hard row to hoe*."—*Knick. Mag.*, xliii. 533 (May).

1862 Ole Uncle S. sez he, I guess  
We've a *hard row*, sez he,  
To *hoe* jest now ; but thet, somehow,  
May happen to J.B.,  
Ez wal ez you an' me.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 2.

**Hards and Softs.** The Hards were those who, under the leadership of Senator Benton, "Old Bullion," were for hard money ; while the Softs were for a paper currency.

1847 *Hards, softs*, whigs, and Tylerites were represented.—Robb, 'Squatter Life,' p. 91 (Farmer).

1847 We knew who were disorganizers in Ohio ; and there never was so broad a line drawn between the *softs* and the *hards* as there would have been, had not the *softs* reluctantly come in, &c.—Mr. Fries of Ohio, House of Repr., Feb. 17 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 442.

1848 Barnburners and Hunkers, the "*Hards*" and the "*Softs*," the "Chivalry" and Wilmot Proviso men found one subject on which all could agree.—Mr. Rockwell of Conn., the same, May 11 : *id.*, p. 759. *See also* *id.*, p. 759.

1854 Jan. 17. Mr. Cutting of N.Y. made a speech in the House of Repr., on the history of the *Hards* and the *Softs*, with special reference to the Baltimore Convention of 1848. They were opposing sections of the Democratic party.—*Id.*, pp. 192–194.

1854 Jan. 20. Mr. Cutting and other speakers alluded to the *Hards and Softs* of the N.Y. democracy.—*Id.*, pp. 84–87, &c., App.

**Hardshell Baptists.** See quot. 1842.

1842 The Baptists [in Macon, Georgia] are of the order called here *Hardshelled Baptists*, a phrase which was new to me ; and which was given to them, as I understood, from being so impenetrable to all influences of a benevolent kind, and so hostile to all the auxiliary aids of missions, &c. . . . One of their veteran preachers here is said to have declared from the pulpit that he would never submit to be deprived of his worldly comforts by the fanatics of modern times ; and among those comforts he numbered his "honey-dram before breakfast, and his mint-julap or sling, when the weather required it."—Buckingham, 'Slave States,' i. 197.

**Hardshell Baptists—contd.**

- 1848 The old *Hard-shell* laid about him like rath, and whenever he stopped for breth, two or three of the others was down on him like a Yankee thrashin-machine.... Bimeby the old *hardshell* caved in for want of breth.—'Jones's Fight,' p. 30.
- 1854 His grandfather, the Rev. Jedediah Suggs, was a noted divine of the Anti-missionary or *Hardshell Baptist* persuasion in Georgia.—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 122.
- 1856 Somehow I ollers tuck amazin' likin' tu the Baptists, specially tu the *hard shells*.—*Weekly Oregonian*, May 3.
- 1860 See HALF HORSE, HALF ALLIGATOR.
- 1860 I have been called an old *hard-shell Baptist* preacher.... I am a *hard-shell Baptist*, though not a *hard-shell Baptist* preacher.—Mr. Cobb of Alabama, House of Repr., Jan. 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 615.
- 1872 The "*Hardshell Baptists*," or, as they are otherwise called, the "Whisky Baptists," and the "Forty-gallon Baptists," exist in all the old Western and South Western States.—E. Eggleston, 'The Hoosier Schoolmaster,' p. 67.
- 1877 A full, husky, explosive voice, used imperfectly, often in a sing-song tone, like a "*hardshell Baptist*" preacher, yet powerful.—*Providence Journal*, May 5 (Bartlett).

**Hardshells** in politics. See quotation.

- 1853 The difference between a *Hardshell* and a *Softshell* is this : one favors the Execution of the Fugitive Slave Law, and goes for a distribution of the offices among the Nationals, while the other is a loud stickler for Union and Harmony.—*N. Y. Tribune*, April 2 (Bartlett).

**Hardware.** This word, which is at least three centuries old, has generally displaced "ironmongery." The latter word occurs in an advertisement in the *Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, Aug. 13, 1817.

- a.1515 *Hard waremen*, mole sellers, and ratte takers.—Cocke Lorell's Bote. (N.E.D.) The meaning here is uncertain.
- 1577 Harrison's 'Description of England' (Oliphant).
- 1724 Mr. Wood,.... a *hardware-dealer*, procured a patent.... to coin 108,000l. in copper.—Swift, 'Drapier's Letters,' v. 14. (N.E.D.)
- 1818 Sturtevant, Trout, and Gurney have for sale a general assortment of Dry and *Hard Ware* Goods.—Advt., *Blakeley (Ala.) Sun*, Dec. 22.

**Harmonites.** Members of Rapp's colony at Harmony, Ohio, now almost extinct.

- 1817 Ignorant as the mass of the *Harmonites* may be, we see the good arising from mere association.... In the institution of these societies, the Shakers, and the *Harmonites*, religion seems to be [a powerful agent].—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' pp. 156, 158 (Phila.).

**Harpooners.** The meaning is probably lost.

1802 Not on account of any injury done you or the Jersey—Jove, the apostate Luther Martin, the vulgar Pickerings and Wolcotts, the *Harpooners*, Burrs, or Brutuses &c. could effect.—‘Letters to Alex. Hamilton,’ p. 4 (N.Y.).

**Hartford Convention.** A meeting of Federalists in Dec. 1814 and Jan. 1815. They were charged with planning secession and independence.

1828 We are no apologists for the *Hartford Convention*—that body of men stink now, ever have stunk, and ever will stink, in our nostrils.—*Richmond Whig*, July 16, p. 3/1.

1840 The character of the *Hartford Convention* is marked with an indelible brand.—Mr. Parmenter of Mass., House of Repr., April 20 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 451, App.

1840 The memory of the *Hartford Convention* cannot die. It is embalmed in memory and recorded in history as a negative example to after times.—Mr. Hopkins of Va., the same, April 22 : *id.*, p. 644, App.

1850 A certain *Hartford Convention* demanded “dissolution or secession” as the remedy for what that body considered to be a great wrong.—Mr. Stanton of Kentucky, the same, March 11 : *id.*, p. 498.

1863 Much doubt has existed concerning the purposes of the *Hartford Convention* that assembled during the war of 1812, but no one will ever entertain a doubt of the purposes of the Hartford [Democratic] Convention assembled amid the throes of fratricidal strife. This Convention reflected the sentiments of Toucey, Seymour, Eaton, &c.—Mr. Henry Wilson of Mass., U.S. Senate, Feb. 21 : *Id.*, p. 1163/3.

**Hash, one's.** One's business. The N.E.D. cites Brockett's *Glossary of North-country Words*, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1825. “Hash, a sloven, one who does not know how to behave with propriety, a silly talkative person. It is also used in a different sense, though perhaps not local :—

Brave Prudhoe triumphant shall skim the wide main ;

*The hash of the Yankees he'll settle ;*

And ages hereafter shall serve to proclaim

A Northumberland free from Newcastle.”

The phrase in question may have been invented in America, and have been learned by the English in the war of 1812.

1807 Or should you, for the basest crimes,  
Become indicted fifty times,  
    *This settles all the hash ;*  
For bills, which leave the poor no hope  
T' escape the dungeon or the rope,  
Are cancelled all, by Cash.

*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 14 : from the *Albany Register*.

1824 The parties *settled the hash*, (came to an agreement,) and retired to comfortable quarters, to quaff cogniac.—*The Microscope*, Albany, Feb. 28.

1837 I've *settled his hash*, though.—*Knicker. Mag.*, ix. 360 (April).

1849 I completely *settled his “hash.”*—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 179.

**Hash, one's—contd.**

- 1857 There was mister coon, all safe. I *settled his hash*, now you'd better believe, quick.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 69 (Jan.).
- 1888 He was [a know-nothing,] eh? That *settles his hash* with the German settlement in Crosby Creek.—'Texas Siftings,' n.d. (Farmer).

**Hatchet, bury the.** To terminate hostilities.

- 1784 After the peace of Ryswick, Count Frontenac advised [the Indians] to *bury the hatchet*, and to restore their captives.—Jeremy Belknap, 'N. Hampshire,' i. 281.
- 1794 To use an Indian figure, may *the hatchet* henceforth be *buried* for ever.—J. Jay, 'Corresp.,' &c., iv. 147. (N.E.D.)
- 1802 We have been invited to *bury the hatchet*, and brighten the chain of peace.—Mr. Bayard, in reply to Mr. Giles: *The Balance*, Hudson, N.Y., April 6, p. 107.
- 1812 What has provoked them of late to *dig up the hatchet* they had so long *luried*? Let Mr. Madison and the majority of Congress answer.—*Boston-Gazette*, Dec. 17.
- 1843 Uncle John now proposed to *bury the hatchet*, and form a league of offence and defence.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 54.
- 1848 Will the time never come when we may honorably *bury the tomahawk*, and pass round the calumet of peace?—Mr. Jamieson of Missouri, House of Repr., Jan. 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 193.

**Haul.** To convey by drawing.

- 1704 [The Indians asked] what he designed to do with that new Timber *hal'd* to the side of his House.—*Boston News-Letter*, May 8: J. T. Buckingham, 'Newspaper Literature,' i. 12 (1850).
- 1812 They are sometimes employed in *hauling* lead from the mines.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Views of Louisiana,' p. 141 (1814).

\*.\* In the English use of the word, force or violence is included: N.E.D.

**Hawkeye.** An Iowan.

- 1845 See Appendix XV.
- 1878 The *Hawkeyes* (state designation for Iowa people) are a progressive race.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 376.

**Hayseed.** A countryman.

- 1889 To send a glimmer of . . . reason through the mind of the frontier *hayseed*.—*Boston Journal*, April 29. (N.E.D.)
- 1891 [He] thought it a base presumption for an "old *hayseed*" to try to enter the town's society.—*Harper's Weekly*, Sept. 19. (N.E.D.)
- 1898 I laid myself open to the imputation of being considered a "*hayseed*."—Mrs. Mackin, 'On Two Continents,' p. 19.

**Hayti.** See quotation.

- 1857 *Hayti* is the name given to that part of the town where pussons of culler reside.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 428 (Oct.).

**Haze.** To bully, to persecute. Originally nautical.

1840 Every shifting of the studding-sails was only to "haze" the crew. (Note) *Haze* is a word of frequent use on board ship, and never, I believe, used elsewhere. It is very expressive to a sailor, and means to punish by hard work.—R. H. Dana, 'Two Years before the Mast,' ch. viii.

1850 The surest way to make a man worthless and indifferent to the success of the voyage is to *haze* him.—John Ross Browne, 'A Whaling Cruise,' p. 90 (Bartlett).

1850 Mack was....a clumsy sailor. The captain disliked him, and continually *hazed* him for his awkwardness.—*Id.*, p. 187 (Bartlett).

1850 'Tis the Sophomores rushing the Freshmen to *haze*.—Hall, 'College Words,' p. 251. (N.E.D.)

1863 The paltry and laborious folly of stealing gates and signs is totally inexcusable. The crime of "*hazing*" Freshmen is also of this kind.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxviii. 290.

1868 Did you not hear that he had been *hazed*?....They gagged his mouth,....shaved his head, then put him under the pump, and left him tied on the Campus.—'Life of President MacCosh,' ch. xiv. (N.E.D.)

1869 Some Sophs tried to *haze* one of our men, and we had a little scrimmage.—W. T. Washburne, 'Fair Harvard,' p. 15 (N.Y.). See also pp. 31, 35, 49, 59.

1888 The petty bullying or *hazing*, and the whole system of college tyranny, is a most contemptible denial of fair play....The meanest and most cowardly fellows in college may shine most in *hazing*....The *hazers* in college are the men who have been bred upon dime-novels and the prize-ring, in spirit at least, if not in fact.—G. W. Curtis in *Harper's Monthly*, lxxvi. 635-6.

1889 [A recruit in the army] stood in much the same relation to the veterans of his company, that a Freshman in College does to the Sophomore, or did when *hazing* was the rule and not the exception.—J. D. Billings, 'Hard Tack and Coffee,' p. 202 (Boston).

1910 One cadet, now a major of infantry, drove off his tormentors by sending a bullet through an assailant's leg. *Hazing* was never attempted again in his case.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 17.

**Head-hanging.** The N.E.D. gives no example.

1789 [I heard you had] turned a complete Methodist *head-hanging* enthusiast.—*Maryland Journal*, July 28.

**Head-rights.** Rights to property, accruing to a member of an Indian tribe.

1878 I was married to a Cherokee [woman] that had *head-rights*.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 43.

**Health, for one's** (with negative). "Not to be here for one's health" is to have an ulterior purpose, usually that of money-making.

1904 Bowman hain't no fool. *He hain't here for his health*.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 35.

1911 "Don't you think that your devotion to politics is hurting your health?" "I'm not in politics *for my health*."—*Toledo Blade*, Aug.

**Heap, heaping.** To heap (intransitive) is to mount up

1838 The amount of money is a very high and *heaping* price.  
—Mr. Graham of N. Carolina, House of Repr.: *Cong. Globe*, p. 470, App.

1873 A stripe of phosphorescence *heaping* before you in a star-sown snow.—J. R. Lowell, 'Among My Books,' ii. 273. (N.E.D.)

**Heated term.** The hot season; the dog-days.

1873 The *heated term* was at its worst.—J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 65 (Phila., &c.)

1878 The average of the "*heated term*," one day with another, is recorded at 84 degrees [at Houston, Texas].—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 431.

**Heaves.** Mentioned in the dictionaries, including Webster, 1828, only as a disease of quadrupeds.

1793 If an old maid chances to have the *heaves*.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 8.

1857 I put up the fust cabin here, with a little help from a poor feller that's now bad with the *heaves*.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 69.

**Heeled.** Supplied with necessities, especially money and fire-arms. Western slang.

1873 Nothing surprises Eastern pilgrims so much as the steady increase of prices as they go westward....To travel long out West a man must be, in the local phrase, "*well heeled*."—J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 351 (Phila., &c.).

**Heeler.** A political follower ready to do dirty work.

1881 The corruption fund was spent freely. Congressmen, influential lobbyists, and mere "strikers" and "*heelers*" came in for shares.—*Boston Globe*, Aug. 29.

1909 [There seems to be] no truth in the rumor that the office is going to be given to a "*heeler*" of the local Republican organization.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, April 26.

**Heft.** To weigh.

1840 A long row of boxes had been viewed and "*hefted*" by the Commissioners.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 223.

1842 Smith told them that the Church had \$200,000, in specie, and he opened one box, and they saw that it was silver, and they *hefted* a number, and Smith told them that they contained specie.—John A. Clark, 'Gleanings by the Way,' p. 334.

1851 I remember the great hog up in Danwich, that *hefted* nigh twenty score.—Sylvester Judd, 'Margaret,' p. 111 (Bartlett).

**Heft.** Weight, bulk.

1558 A swarme of bees beset the bower,  
And fast with feete in cluster clung,  
And on the top with *heft* they hung.

Phaer's 'Æneid.' (N.E.D.)





**Help** with the infinitive. See quotations. A correspondent of *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. v. 108, pointed out that similar elisions of the word *to* occur in the old dramatists: "You ought not walk." 'Jul. Cæsar,' I. i. 3. "Suffer him speak no more." 'Sejanus,' iii. 1. And in 9 S. vi. 30 Prof. Skeat cites, among other instances, "to help unarm our Hector." 'Troilus and Cr.,' iii. 1: adding, that in Old English the infinitive was never preceded by the word *to*.

1794 I *help maintain* [our parson] as cheerfully as any man in the town.—*Mass Spy*, March 6.

1829 In the afternoon he *helped bore* logs.—*Id.*, Oct. 7.

1838 I *helped throw up* that fortification.—*The Jeffersonian*, Aug. 25: from *The Boston Evening Post*.

1888 We refuse to chip in for a church, but will contribute \$10. to *help get* Lampas Jake, the revivalist, down here. — *Detroit Free Press*, Oct. (Farmer).

**Help.** An assistant or servant.

1645 Such of his servants and *helps* as have been employed about y<sup>e</sup> attendance of y<sup>e</sup> court.—'Mass. Col. Records,' ii. 139 (Bartlett).

1815 Our kitchen-girls (ladies, I should say, for that, nephew, is the appellation to which you are more accustomed,) rival their mistresses in the splendour of their dresses, and have already begun to have their routs and tea-parties.... If our friends knock at the door, our lady and gentleman "*hired helps*" do not understand who is meant when their master is inquired for, and [do not] comprehend what is wanted when our visitors ask for a Servant.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 23.

1817 House-slaves are called "servants," and the words "slave" and "servant" are in many places synonymous.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 178 (Phila.).

1819 I'm s'prised to find you making cheese, when you are so abundantly able to hire *help*.—*Mass. Spy*, July 28: from *The Connecticut Courant*.

1825 All...., though two were servants, or "*helps*," ate of the same fare, at the same table.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 18.

1832 The greatest difficulty in organizing a family establishment in Ohio is getting servants, or, as it is there called, getting *help*, for it is more than petty treason.... to call a free citizen a servant.—Mrs. Trollope, 'Manners,' &c., i. 73.

1835 Two dollars a week are commonly given here for a female *help*.—Andrew Reed, 'Visit to America,' i. 166.

1836 A gentleman by the name of Glover advertised in the [N.Y.] *Sun* for a *help*.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Nov. 12.

1842 The first week our new "*help*" fully equalled our wishes.—*Knick. Mag.*, xix. 524 (June).

1850 Our "*help*" told it to the neighbor's "*help*," who of course told it to our neighbor's wife.—Donald G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' ii 169, (1852).

**Help—contd.**

- 1855 There is no class so destitute of *help*, as the Yankees call it, as the wives and mothers of Oregon.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Jan. 6.
- 1858 Our "*help*," a buxom Irish girl, has a very devoted lover down East.—*Knicker. Mag.*, li. 541 (May).
- 1858 "We call our servants *helps*. They air not oppressed; they air not Russian scurfs."—*Id.*, lii. 534 (Nov.).
- 1859 The Yankee farmer cannot employ slave labor. He is accustomed to associate with "*helps*"; he has never learned to play the part of a master.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Dec. 30, p. 2/1.
- 1860 Children often make use of odd words and phrases, which they have carefully remembered from the indiscriminate remarks of the *help*, to whom in many families they are at times necessarily confided.—*Id.*, lv. 105 (Jan.).
- 1860 My *help* will be standin' on her head by this time, like enough.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 599 (Nov.).
- 1878 Land! if you want to know folks, just hire out to 'em. They take their wigs off afore the *help*, so to speak, seem-in'ly.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. xvi.
- 1909 Book Agent. "Madam, here is an admirable work I have on how to manage servants." Housewife. "Don't want it. You cant get any *help* in this town to manage." Book Agent. "Then here is a still better series on self-help."—*Baltimore American*, April.

**Henhawk.** The *falco lineatus*.

- 1815 A very large flock of *Hen-hawks* and white-headed Eagles.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 11.
- 1821 [Birds of prey,] if we except the Common or *Hen-hawk*, are few in number. The King-Bird or Bee-eater is an overmatch for any of them.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 53.
- 1854 Silently overhead the *hen-hawk* sails  
With watchful, measuring eye, and for his quarry waits.  
J. R. Lowell, 'An Indian-Summer Reverie.'

**Herd's grass.**

- 1747 I sowed nearly 30 acres with *herd-grass* and clover.—B. Franklin, 'Works,' ii. 81. (N.E.D.)
- 1799 A Quantity of Clover, and *Herd's Grass* Seed.—Advt. *Mass. Mercury*, Feb. 19.
- 1817 *Herd's grass*, Fowl Meadow, and White Clover Seed.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, April 30.
- 1820 Daniel Heywood has for Sale 70 bushels *Herd's Grass* Seed.—*Id.*, April 26.
- 1824 Jeremiah Robinson offers for Sale *Herd Grass* [Seed], Foul Medow [Seed] &c.—*Id.*, April 21.

- Hern** and **hisn**. These possessives are traced back to the years 1340 and 1410: N.E.D.
- 1821 *Hisn, Hern, Ourn*, are quoted by Dr. Dwight as cockneyisms.—‘Travels,’ iv. 280.
- 1825 I happens into that air store o’ *hisn* ; it was a room over a tavern.—John Neal, ‘Brother Jonathan,’ i. 157.
- 1841 I know that dog of *his’n*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xviii. 191 (Sept.).
- 1844 When Peggy’s dog her arms imprison,  
I often wish my lot was *hissen* ;  
How often should I stand and turn  
To get a pat from hands like *hern*.  
Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 19. (The N.E.D. attributes the lines to Hood, ab. 1845.)
- 1847 I seen [the “panter”] were arter my throat, and with that I grabbed *hern*.—‘Chunkey’s Fight,’ p. 137 (Phila.).
- 1848 I seen her on the sidewalk  
When I run with number 9 ;  
My eyes spontaneous sought out *hern*,  
And *hern* was fixed on mine.  
‘Stray Subjects,’ p. 107.
- 1851 I kalkilated them curs o’ *hisn* wasn’t worth shucks in a bar fight.—‘Polly Peasblossom’s Wedding,’ p. 51.
- 1851 “Will you have a cigar yourself ?” “Yes, thank ye ; will you ?” (to bridesmaid). “No. I’ll wait till she gets along some, and then I’ll take a pull at *her’n*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxvii. 182 (Feb.).
- 1852 Oh ! could Napoleon have bu’st the chain  
That bound him to his prison,  
He’d ha’ scared the nations once again  
With that eagle eye of *his’n*.  
*Id.*, xxxix. 201 (Feb.).
- 1855 She has gone to Abraham’s breast,  
Thar to lay and rest  
With angels in the sky  
Unto a long eternity  
And we are left to mourn  
And wish our lot was *hern*.  
*Id.*, xlv. 312 (March).
- 1856 I was only too eager to get out of sich hands as *his’n* and *your’n*.—W. G. Simms, ‘Eutaw,’ p. 19.
- 1856 He was *her’n*, and she was *his’n*,  
Ever *her’n* and ever *his’n*,  
*Her’n* and *his’n*, now and ever,  
Each one wishing for our hero.  
*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 231.
- 1857 The drift of these ere lines so fine,  
Penned by a sailor-boy,  
Which rival *his’n*, who, “lang syne,”  
Rit tales of Betty Foy.  
*Knick. Mag.*, l. 454 (Nov.).
- 1862 His heart kep’ goin’ pity-pat,  
But *hern* went pity Zekle.  
J. R. Lowell, ‘The Courtin’.
- 1862 See **AXE TO GRIND.**]

**Herring-pond.** The Atlantic Ocean.

- 1686 I'll send an account of the wonders I meet on the *Great Herring Pond*.—J. Dunton, 'Letters from New England,' p. 19. (N.E.D.)
- 1722 'Tis odds but a finer country, cheaper and better food and raiment, wholesomer air, easier rent and taxes, will tempt many of your countrymen to cross the *herring-pond*.—'England's Path to Wealth,' cited in Nares's 'Glossary' *Notes and Queries*, 8 S. vi. 153.
- 1796 To cross the *herring-pond* at the King's expense; to be transported.—Grose, 'Dict. of the Vulgar Tongue': *id.*, p. 154.
- 1815 He'll plague you now he's come over the *herring-pond*.—'Guy Mannering,' ch. xxxiv.: *id.*, p. 48.

**Hessian Fly.** An insect which was supposed to have come over with the Hessians, and which was destructive to wheat.

- 1786 We are sorry to find that the *Hessian Fly* has made its progress so far through New Jersey....A gentleman in the neighbourhood of Princeton recommends roasting of wheat in the fall and spring, to prevent injury from the *Hessian Fly*.—*Virginia Gazette*, Oct. 18.
- 1787 Here I saw the *Hessian Fly*, as it is called, which has done immense injury to wheat.—M. Cutler, 'Life,' &c. (1888), i. 246. (N.E.D.)
- 1787 See notices in *American Museum*, i. 133, 324, 529; ii. 175, 298, 458–9.
- 1787 That pernicious insect commonly known by the appellation of the *Hessian bug*.—*Id.*, ii. 459.
- 1790 *Hessian Fly*. We are sorry to learn that the Wheat Insect has not yet ceased to be troublesome.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Nov. 3.
- 1799 The *Hessian Fly* visited us long before the French Revolution had commenced.—*The Aurora*, Phila., May 7.  
[This was in answer to certain preachers who alleged that the Fly was sent as a "special judgment."]
- 1821 The culture of wheat, since the *Hessian fly* made its appearance, has been chiefly discontinued in Connecticut.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 49 (New Haven).
- 1821 [The *Hessian Fly*] was first found in a field of wheat on or near the Hessian encampment in the neighbourhood of Brooklyn. This was in the year 1784. [A description of the insect follows].—*Id.*, iii. 200.
- 1847 Anterior to the revolutionary war, the *Hessian fly* was unknown in this country. No allusion to an insect of this kind has been found in any American work, or in the journal of any foreign traveller, nor since its appearance has it been intimated that any of our citizens had ever observed it prior to that date....We regard the year 1779 as most probably the date when its ravages actually commenced.—Dr. Asa Fitch's 'Pamphlet on the Hessian Fly,' pp. 11–12.

**Hetchel.** To worry, to annoy. A variant of "hatchel" and "heckle," originally used with reference to dressing hemp.

1800 They have harrowed the feelings of the people by gag-bills, stamp-acts, and land taxes, and *hatchelled* them with prosecutions, fines, and imprisonments.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Oct. 20.

1851 The clouds hung low, and their floating skirts seemed to be pierced and *hetcheled* by the trees.—S. Judd, 'Margaret,' i. 134.

1878 She'll *hetchel* the old woman mortally, I be afraid.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Cal Culver and the Devil,' *Harper's Mag.*, lvii. 576.

[1908 Whether American woman suffragists would do well to adopt the English methods of interrupting meetings and "*heckling*" the speakers, is open to grave doubt. In England they are used to that sort of thing. *Heckling* is a well-recognized, long-established institution.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Oct. 26.]

**Hewgag.** A college word, evidently formed from the account of Samuel hewing Agag in pieces.

1855 The T.I.N. Horn-et Band, with Sackbut, F. saltery, Dulcimer, and Shawm, Tang-lang, Locofodeon, and *Hugag*, marched next.—*Vermont Free Press*, June 8: 'Account of the June Training.' (Hall's 'College Words.')

1855 Strike the *hewgag* ! sound the tomjohn !  
Let the loud hosanna ring !  
*Knicker. Mag.*, xlvi. 617 (Dec.).

1856 Sound the *hewgag* ! strike the tonjon !  
Let the huzzy-guzzy ring !  
Wake the tang-lang, and the gong-gong, &c.  
*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 292.

1858 Setting it out with the accompanying "sound of *hewgag*."  
—S. Bowles in Merriam's 'Life' (1885), i. 295. (N.E.D.)

**Hickok plum.**

1837 The ovino, custard apple, *hickok*, and huesco plumbs are abundant on the east bank of the Indian River.—John L. Williams, 'Territory of Florida,' p. 19 ; also p. 33.

**Hickory.** A name common to about a dozen kinds of nut-bearing trees.

1705 The kernels of the *Hiccories* they beat in a Mortar with Water, and make a white Liquor like Milk, whence they call our Milk *Hicory*.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' iii. 15.

1772 The *Hiccora*. Anno 1772 [Dr. Stock] has learned to call this by its right name, *Hickory*.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 293.

1775 Bears oyl, honey, and *hickory milk*, are the boast of the [Chicasaw] country.—*Id.*, p. 94.

**Hickory.** A hickory stick.

1805 I have only to take my *hickory* and walk.—Daniel Webster, May 4: 'Letters.' (N.E.D.)

**Hickory cloth, shirt, &c.** Cloth, &c., dyed with hickory-juice.

1857 Get some good *hickory cloth*, or some buckskins, and let the sisters make dresses and garments that cannot be easily torn.—Brigham Young, Feb. 1: 'Journal of Discourses,' iv. 205.

1891 Fumbling in the breast pocket of his *hickory shirt*.—Bret Harte, 'Fam. Tasajara,' i. 16. (N.E.D.)

**Hickory Mormons.** Those who are half-hearted.

1855 If there are any Gentiles, or *hickory "Mormons,"* write it down.—Brigham Young, June 17: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 322.

1870 The rest [were] Mormons, or at least "*hickory Mormons*," sons of Mormon parents.—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 224 (Phila., &c.).

1878 Among the young, or "*Hickory Mormons*," there are about as many men as women.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 534.

**Hickory, Old.** See OLD HICKORY.

**Hicksites.** Certain Quakers who seceded from the main body in 1827, under the leadership of Elias Hicks. They profess Unitarian principles.

1839 The Friends....have been separated into Orthodox and *Hicksite*.—Marryat, 'Diary in Am.,' iii. 95. (N.E.D.)

**Hide and Coop.** Hide and seek.

1850 As if religion were a game of *hide and coop*.—Sylvester Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 128.

1904 The phrase is found in New Hampshire and in Iowa.—'Dialect Notes,' ii. 418.

1909 M. C. L. of New York says this variant of the hiding game was familiar to American children long before 1850. In "*hide and coop*," each called from his hiding-place a faint, long-drawn "c-o-o-p."—*Notes and Queries*, 10 S. xii. 371.

**Highbinders.** A set of organized villains in New York City; also, later, the term was applied to Chinese gangs on the Pacific Coast.

1806 A desperate association of lawless and unprincipled vagabonds, calling themselves "*High-binders*,"....produced several riots.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Dec. 26. (N.E.D.)

1807 A desperate association of unprincipled men calling themselves *Highbinders*, who, under pretence of demolishing houses of ill fame, commit the most disorderly practices.—*The Balance*, Hudson, N.Y., Jan. 6, p. 6.

1839 You are the *highbinder* which took away my young woman.—C. F. Briggs, 'Harry Franco,' i. 175.

1839 Perhaps you can convince Mr. M. that I am no *high-binder*, although I have got a frock coat on.—*Id.*, ii. 69.

a.1849 The debaucheries, crime, and improprieties of soaplocks, blacklegs, and *highbinders*.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 255.

**Higher law.** A supposed moral rule, excusing the citizen from obeying the law of the land.

- 1850 I see no way of avoiding [these consequences], unless they are destroyed by the operation of that "*higher law*," the conscience of Free Soilers.—Mr. Savage of Tenn., House of Repr., May 13 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 559, App.
- 1850 [The Boston *Liberator*] presents the first clear and distinct definition which I have seen of this "*higher law*." I wish this same "*higher law*" to be understood in all its amplitude. [Then follows the 14th resolution of the New England Anti-Slavery Convention.]—Mr. Foote of Miss., U.S. Senate, June 17 : *id.*, p. 906, App.
- 1850 Let no man tell me there is no *higher law* than this fugitive [slave] bill.—Mr. Giddings of Ohio House of Repr., Dec. 10 : *id.*, p. 15.
- 1851 I am informed [said Mr. Thaddeus Stevens of Pa.] that there is no law which gives a pre-emption right to unsurveyed land but the "*higher law*,"—the law of the bowie-knife. I think we ought not to recognize that kind of "*higher law*." Mr. Sibley of Minn. said that the "*higher law*" to which he referred was not any law of violence, but the law of public opinion, of public sentiment, a *higher law* which he believed existed elsewhere, as well as in Minnesota.—The same, Feb. 6 : *id.*, p. 445.
- 1851 The evil spirit assumed the form of a serpent, and whispered to Eve that there was a "*higher law*."—Mr. Butler of S. Car., U.S. Senate, Feb. 17 : *id.*, p. 580.
- 1854 We hold to a "*higher law*" than Congressional enactments.—Mr. Giddings, House of Repr., Dec. 11 : *id.*, p. 35, App.
- 1861 [Mr. Seward's] genius has organized the vagrancies (*sic*) of fanaticism into a code of aggressive principles. He is the author of the pandects of the "*higher law*."—*N.O. Picayune*, Jan. 20.

**High-falutin.** Bombastic in talk or behaviour.

- 1848 I was at the Barnburners' Convention in Utica, [where a man] got up and ground out what we term at the West a regular built fourth-of July—star-spangled-banner—times-that-tried-men's-souls—Jefferson speech, making gestures to suit the *highfalutens*.—Speech of Mr. Coombs in N.Y., Sept. 29 (Bartlett).
- 1854 Old Mrs. Peabody was allers a dreadful *high-falutin* critter, with stuck-up notions, and old P. is a soft head, driven by his wife, just as our old rooster is driven about by that cantankerous crabbed Dorking hen.—J. W. Spaulding in *Weekly Oregonian*, Dec. 23.
- 1856 Where'd dem horses a been now, if I had been one of your *highfalutin* sort, always driving round ?—'Dred,' ch. vi.
- 1856 Well, we got ter *skyfaluting* about, and there was licker around, and pooty good rum too.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 616 (June).



**High-falutin—contd.**

- 1857 Don't laugh, boys, if I do get a little *highfalutin'*,—you don't know how *you'd* have felt.—*San Fr. Call*, Feb. 19 : from *Cincinnati Enquirer*.
- 1859 If you wish to be an "A No. 1" woman, you have got to "toe the mark," and be less "*hifalutin*."—J. G. Holland, 'Titcomb's Letters,' p. 140.
- 1862 Educated peepul, kernel, ain't got any more wit or common sense than other folks, but they try to make you believe they have, an' will talk *high falutin* words just to frighten you if they kin.—'Major Jack Downing,' Aug. 14.
- 1885 On my return, I met a high official of the Navy, who said : "We received your *high falutin* telegram about the Ericsson vessel."—Admiral Porter, 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 62.
- 1909 An Englishman who knows the U.S. well, Mr. H. W. Horwill, has an article in the *National Review* asking if Americans are not provincial. One of the specifications, by which he would seek to justify an affirmative answer, is the persistence among us of the *highfalutin'* style of oratory. Dickens satirized it, Proctor Knott made himself famous by going it several better, but the thing has not been killed.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 25.

**High-holder, High-hole.** Names of birds. See N.E.D.

**Highminded.** An epithet applied to the Clinton party, in derision : Mr. Charles L. Norton, *Mag. Am. Hist.*, xiii. 201 (1885).

- 1824 It is not very serviceable to talk much of Burrites, Lewisites, and the *High minded*.—B. F. Butler to Jesse Hoyt : Mackenzie's 'Life of M. Van Buren,' p. 169.
- 1829 Duer, who is attached to young Hoffman, with all the coodies, *high minded*, and Clintonians.... Lorenzo tells me I had better abandon all ideas of political preferment till the coodies and *highminded* [are] exterminated.—Mackenzie's 'Lives of Butler and Hoyt,' pp. 55, 56.

**Highwayman.** See quotation.

- 1830 The price depends upon the convenience of the purser, who is frequently called in American ships "the *highwayman*."—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 200.

**Hike.** To move vigorously. A college word.

- a.1872 You've got to *hike around*, and fling some style inter your victuals.—J. M. Bailey, 'Folks at Danbury,' p. 48.
- 1890 There goes taps [exclaimed a soldier,] and before we get a mouthful to eat old Curley will *hike us out* for the march.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 92.
- 1909 How a Force of Moro Constabulary *Hiked Through* the Jungle to Get a Headman Who Had Stained His Bolo Red With Blood.—Head-lines in the *N.Y. Evening Post*, Dec. 6.

**Hill of beans, not worth a.**

- 1904 [He] didn't amount to a *hill o' beans*, as a citizen.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 76.  
Phrase used in N. Hampshire and Alabama: 'Dialect Notes,' iii. 190, 320.

**Hindsights, to knock off.** To beat; to demolish.

- 1834 As sure as you saw the fire at the muzzle of his gun, so sure he knocked the creter's *hindsights* out.—'The Kentuckian in N.Y.,' i. 21 (N.Y.).  
1851 You'd er thought he'd er knocked the *nigh sites* off'n every mother's son on 'em.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 52.  
1853 It goes agin my grit for Hardscrabble to cave in to Dogtown, when we could knock the *hindsights* off 'em, if we was only a mind to.—'Life Scenes,' p. 43.

**Hip.** To carry on the hip. Local.

- 1818 Some mothers (in Kentucky) *hip* their infants, as do the Sumatrans.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 93 (Boston, 1824).

**Hipsesaws.** See quotation.

- 1833 *Hipsesaws* and jigs were the common dances of the commonalty.—Watson, 'Historic Tales of Phila.,' p. 149.

**Hired girl, man, &c.**

- 1737 A *hired man* with me on a fishing voyage.—Plymouth (Mass.) 'Town Records,' May 18. (N.E.D.)  
1800 [On Monday, the Priestley family, at Northumberland, Pa., with] a *hired girl*, and a little bound girl, all of them were [not fatally] poisoned. The *hired girl* made a pudding for dinner. The girl and a *hired man* went to the chest, &c.—*The Aurora*, Phila., May 1.  
1862 Had Adam been a modern, there would have been a *hired girl* in Paradise, to look after little Abel, and to raise Cain.—*Rocky Mountain News*, June 28.

**History, to have a.**

- 1856 She looks to me as if she *had a history*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 113 (Feb.).  
1860 George Eliot. (N.E.D.)

**Hitch horses.** To get along together; sometimes, to be married.

- a.1704 Faith and reason, which can never be brought to *set their horses together*.—T. Brown, 'Works' (1760), iii. 198. (N.E.D.)  
[1827 I reckon we mought *paddle our canoes together* pretty snipshush like.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 24: from the *Augusta* (Ga.) *Chronicle*.]  
1830 "Your notions and mine don't agree; we can never *hitch horses*." "Who asked you to *hitch horses*?"—*Mass. Spy*, July 28: from the *N.Y. Constellation*. [This is given as a southernism.]

**Hitch horses**—*contd.*

- 1837-40 [That couple] don't *hitch their horses together* well.—Haliburton, 'The Clockmaker,' p. 117. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 "You want to be a carrier on the Organ?" "Yes, sir," answered Teddy, "if we can *hitch*." "Well, I guess we can *hitch*."—Cornelius Mathews, 'Money Penny,' p. 119 (N.Y.).
- 1855 "Betsy and me have concluded to *hitch teams*, and we want to do it." "You wish to be married?" "Yes, I believe that's what they call it."—*Weekly Oregonian*, March 10.
- 1857 Mr. Moxon and I can't *hitch hosses together*.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 53.
- 1862 An' so we fin'ly made it up, concluded to *hitch hosses*, An' here I be 'n my ellermunt, among creation's bosses.  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.
- 1872 Some Judges had been sent [to Utah], and they and Brother Brigham could not *hitch horses*.—'Life of Bill Hickman,' p. 81.

**Hitch up.** To get the harness on.

- 1857 He could see numerous trains of covered waggon. . . . He also *hitched up* and joined the trains.—Orson Hyde, 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 142.
- 1870 He would *hitch up* at once and drive over to Elyria.—E. E. Hale, 'Ten Times One,' ch. iv. (Century Dict.)
- 1878 The soldier *hitched up* at daylight, and whipped his mules to Wingate by sundown.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 244.

**Hitching-post, -strap.** One for fastening a horse.

- 1852 [He] pulled a *hitching-strap* from under the seat, and fastened his off-horse very neatly to a lamp-post.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 67 (N.Y.).
- 1884 Every available *hitching-post* in sight was taken.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 96. (N.E.D.)

**Hobo.** A tramp, not so formidable as a Yegg.

- 1891 The tramp's name for himself and his fellows is *Hobo*, plural *Hoboes*.—J. Flynt in *Contemporary Review*, Aug. (N.E.D.)
- 1896 The tramp can scarcely be distinguished from the dyed-in-the-wool *hoboe*.—*Pop. Science Journal*, p. 254. (N.E.D.)
- 1909 *The New York Evening Post*, Feb. 25, printed a paper on the 'Glossary of the Hobo,' from which it appears that he has learned much from his English congener.
- 1910 "Three *Hoboes* in India." Title of an article by Harry A. Franck in *The Century Magazine*, March.
- 1910 In the spring the *hobo's* fancy  
Strongly turns to thoughts of grub;  
How to get it without working,  
That's the question, there's the rub!

*Judge* (N.Y.), April.

**Hock.** Prison.

- 1902 I felt....ef they did git Jimmy out o' *hock*....without me a-chippin' in, I'd never be able to look at 'em without remorse.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 199.

**Hoe-cake.** A flat cake formerly baked on a hoe over the coals.

- 1787 The negro is called up about day-break, and is seldom allowed time enough to swallow three mouthfulls of homminy or *hoe-cake*.—*Am. Museum*, i. 246 (March).
- 1793 Some talk of *Hoe-cake*, fair Virginia's pride ;  
Rich Johnny-cake this mouth has often try'd ;  
Both please me well, their virtues much the same ;  
Alike their fabric, as allied their fame.  
Joel Barlow, 'The Hasty-Pudding,' p. 8 (Hallowell, 1815).
- 1803 'Tis mayhap some negur-man that has run away, and is now come out of the woods to beg a *hoe-cake*, or a bit of hominy.—John Davis, 'Travels in the U.S.A.,' p. 129 (Lond.).
- 1809 [They] lived on *hoe cakes* and bacon.—W. Irving, 'History of N.Y.,' i. 239. (For fuller quotation see GOUGE.)
- 1809 Carousing it soundly upon *hoe cakes*, bacon, and mint julep.—*Id.*, ii. 173.
- 1816 What slaves I have seen, fared coarsely upon their *hoe-cakes* and ash-ponc.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 78 (Boston, 1824).
- 1824 In order to get bread at one stage of his tour, [the boy] exchanged the crape of his hat for a *hoe-cake*.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 4.
- 1827 Mr. Macon's breakfast consisted of coffee, corn-bread, *hoe-cake*, boiled eggs, bacon, and cheese.—*Id.*, June 27.
- 1827 Having appeased his appetite on buttermilk and *hoe-cake*, he stretched himself on his pallet.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 28 : from the *Macon Telegraph*.
- 1832 *Hoe-cake*, which is the johnny-cake of New England, and ashpone, a coarse cake baked under the ashes, are in common use, as bread [in the South].—S. G. Goodrich, 'System of Universal Geography,' p. 260 (Boston).
- 1838 That fellow never stirs without his *hoe-cake*.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recoll. of a Southern Matron,' p. 212.
- 1846 Mr. C. J. Ingersoll of Pennsylvania had heard a lady say that she would never forgive that Genoese navigator for having discovered such a vile country as this, when such pleasant cities as London and Paris remained to be explored ; and he had thereby obliged ladies and gentlemen to come to these wilds to live on hominy and *hoecake* and what not.—House of Repr., Feb. 9 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 345.
- 1852 Corn-cake, in all its varieties of *hoe-cake*, dodgers, muffins.—'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' ch. iv.
- 1857 Dem common niggers is only good to hoe de corn and fry de *hoe-cake*.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 587 (Dec.).

**Hoe-down.** A negro dance.

- 1855 The revellers set to sprawling through various rude high-legged reels and *hoedowns*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 227 (Sept.).
- 1856 The slapslippery system of the last fast gyrascuting *hoe-down* Hyperion invention.—*Id.*, xlviii. 405 (Oct.).
- 1885 [The negroes] danced their vigorous *hoe-downs*.—*Library Magazine*, N.Y., July 1. (N.E.D.)

**Hog.** To appropriate greedily.

- 1887 If the crook is obstinate enough to *hog* it all.—*Orange Journal*, April 16 (Farmer).
- 1896 It would give them a chance to say I was *hogging* everything.—*Columbus (O.) Dispatch*, July 2. (N.E.D.)

**Hog and hominy.** Pork and boiled maize : accounted poor fare.

- 1816 [If a man] can be content with *hog and hommany*, he can live easier in Ohio.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 10.
- 1834 Plenty of *hog and hominy* at all times, and we don't want for other and better things.—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' i. 99 (1837).
- 1842 One of the rich States of the valley of the Mississippi could keep all the manufacturing establishments in New England in *hog and hominy* for three years.—Mr. Kennedy of Indiana, House of Repr., June 21 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 663.
- 1847 I can give you plenty to eat ; for beside *hog and hominy* you can have bar-ham and bar-sausages, and a mattrass of bar-skins to sleep on, and a wild cat-skin, pulled off hull, stuffed with cornshucks, for a pillow.—T. B. Thorpe, 'The Big Bear of Arkansas,' p. 21 (Phila.).
- 1848 My niggers has got plenty of *hog and hommony* to eat.—Major Jones's 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 105.
- 1853 Miserly landlords charge enormously high for *hog and hominy*, during Court week.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, April 27.
- 1861 [The inn at Georgetown, S.C., supplied] *hog, and hominy*, and corn-cake, for breakfast ; waffles, *hog and hominy* for dinner ; and *hog, hominy*, and corn-cake for supper.—*Knick. Mag.*, lviii. 316 (Oct.).
- 869 The transition from the luxurious tables of the East to the "square meals" of the West is fortunately gradual, and by the time the traveler reaches Omaha, he is prepared for *hog and hominy*, or whatever may be presented.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 30.
- 1876 They had not been accustomed to such hard fare as "*hog and hominy*," and the poor fellows did suffer fearfully.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' i. 179.
- 1885 White man an' colored man two different tings ; one eat turkey, an' de odder *hog an' hominy*, all he bo'n days.—Admiral Porter, 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 91.

**Hog mane.** A mane cut very short and even.

- 1767 Strayed or Stolen, a large Brown Horse, *Hogg Mein*, bob Tail, &c.—*Boston Post-Boy*, Oct. 12.
- 1769 A sorrel Horse....his *mane hogged* last May.—*Dublin Mercury*, Sept. 25. (N.E.D.)
- 1769 Taken up, a Bay Horse, with a *Hog's Main*, and Star in his Forehead.—*Mass. Gazette*, Nov. 13.
- 1778 The horse a dark grey, with a *hog mane*, bob tail, &c.—*Dunlap's Maryland Gazette*, Aug. 25.
- 1804 Your poney....with his new bridle and his *hog mane*.—Charlotte Smith, 'Conversations,' i. 137. (N.E.D.)

**Hogo.** Strong drink. Rare in this sense.

- 1800 Fraser, who had charged deep with *hogo* that morning, bawled out, &c.—*The Aurora*, Phila., June 28.

**Hog-reeve.** A "field driver," appointed to look after strays.

- 1759 Joseph Clark....John Petty sworn *Hog Riffs*.—'Amherst Records,' (1884), p. 21. (N.E.D.)
- 1858 A man who can get down on his face and eat dirt after that fashion, for nothing but a beggarly office, is not fit for a *hog-reeve*.—*N.Y. Tribune*, June (Bartlett).
- 1877 If I had continued in active political life, I might have risen to be a vote distributor, or fence-viewer, or selectman, or *hog-reeve*, or something of the kind.—J. L. Motley, *Harper's Mag.*, p. 613 (Bartlett).

**Hog-round.** A section of a hog cut across.

- 1863 Bacon is firm at \$2. to \$2. 10 for *hoground*.—J. B. Jones, 'A Rebel War Clerk's Diary,' Sept. 6 (Phila., 1866).

**Hog-wallows.** Prairies which have been turned into alternate mounds and hollows, sometimes symmetrically, by a succession of rains and droughts. See the account given of them by Prof. Riddell in Bartlett's Dictionary.

- 1840 From the difference of surface, soil, and exposure, there arises a great diversity in the size, depth, and general appearance of the *hog-wallows*.—*Am. Journal of Science*, xxxix. 212. (N.E.D.)

**Hold up.** To uphold as a candidate. Obsolete.

- 1813 William was *held up* for Congress, and lost his election.—W. Irving, 'Life and Lett.' (1864), i. 293. (N.E.D.)
- 1816 Is he in Congress, or do you intend to *hold him up* as Governour of the State?—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 21: from the *Wilkes-Barre Gleaner*.

**Hold up.** To stop, with a view to plunder.

- 1887 Any man could *hold up* a wagon.—A. A. Hayes, 'Jesuit's Ring,' p. 228. (N.E.D.)
- 1910 St. Paul, Minn.—Two masked bandits attempted early to-day to *hold up* the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad's "Pioneer limited," which arrived in St. Paul at 7:15 o'clock this morning.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 8.
- 1911 The question is pressed whether the granting of loans on Steel bond collateral, which were being refused on the Tennessee stock, may not have represented a Wall Street "*hold-up*."—*Id.*, June 8.





**Homely**—*contd.*

- 1833 Keep that, if you please, stranger, till you meet with a *homelier* human than yourself, and then give it to him.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 92.
- 1838 Maj. Van Buren is about to be married to a rich and *homely* Miss S. of South Carolina.—*The Jeffersonian*, Albany, Oct. 28 : from *The N.Y. Times*.
- 1847 That hasn't anythink to do with calling any body's wife *homely*.—'Tom Pepper,' i. 49.
- 1848 [He] had been a valuable member of society, only he was very slow-motioned and *homely*.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xxxii. 124.
- 1848 He produced from his pantaloons-pocket the *homely* knife—[elsewhere described as a huge bone-handled concern.]—*Id.*, 125.
- 1856 Zephaniah was about the *homeliest* looking staddle that ever sprouted from the old Varmount stock.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 2.
- 1869 I said, She is not tall, she is short ; she is not beautiful, she is *homely*.—Mark Twain, 'New Pilgrim's Progress,' ch. xix.
- 1852 See UGLY.
- a.1880 See Appendix XXIII.

**Homespun.** See 1820. (1591, &c., N.E.D.)

- 1800 Such is the desire for foreign articles, that we would rather go naked than wear a *Home-spun* shirt, jacket, or breech-clout.—Letter from "Simon Slim" in *The Lancaster (Pa.) Intelligencer*, May 7.
- 1809 Mr. Bacon left Pittsfield in a suit of "*Home-spun*."—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 6.
- 1818 [The young lawyer,] passing the store, resolved to rub on in *home-spun* clothes until he had earned better.—M. Birkbeck, 'Letters from Illinois,' p. 71 (Phila.).
- 1820 I could name several of our most distinguished public characters, who make it a rule to wear no cloth which is not manufactured in their own families.—Hall's 'Letters from the West,' p. 68 (Lond.).
- 1856 *Home-spun* cloth, dyed a brownish yellow with a decoction of the bitter barked butternut.—Derby, 'Phoenixiana,' p. 129.
- 1880 Our clothing was "*homespun*," made by our mothers and sisters,—jeans and linsey for the males, and linsey and striped cotton for the females.—Peter H. Burnett, 'Recollections,' p. 11.

**Hominy.** Maize pounded and boiled. (See also HOG AND HOMINY.)

- 1629 Their servants commonly feed upon Milke *Homini*, which is bruised Indian corne pounded, and boiled thicke, and milke for the sauce.—Captain John Smith, 'Virginia.' (N.E.D.)

**Hominy—contd.**

- 1634 Their ordinary diet is Poane and *Omine*, both made of Corne.—'Relat. Lord Baltimore's Plantation' (1865), p. 17. (N.E.D.)  
The N.E.D. also gives citations 1672, 1683, 1699, &c.
- a.1683 Their diet is maize, or Indian corn, . . . sometimes beaten and boiled in water, which they call *homine*.—W. Penn, quoted in Watson's 'Hist. Tales of N.Y.', 1832, p. 49.
- 1705 [The Indians] boil Fish as well as Flesh with their *Homony*.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' iii. 12.
- 1775 [They] prepare a dish of venison and *homany*. (Note.) Maize coarsly pounded, sifted, and boiled in water.—Bernard Romans, 'Florida,' p. 92.
- 1775 Food such as *hommany*, mush, groats, parched flour, &c.—*Id.*, p. 121.
- 1787 The negro is called up about daybreak, and is seldom allowed time enough to swallow three mouthfulls of *homminy* or hoe-cake.—'Am. Museum,' i. 246.
- 1796 There is a dish which they make of Indian corn, very common in Virginia and Maryland, called "*hominy*." It consists of pounded Indian corn and beans boiled together with milk till the whole mass becomes firm. This is eat, either hot or cold, with bacon, or with other meat.—Isaac Weld, 'Travels through N. America,' p. 105 (Lond., 1799).
- 1808 Mr. Macon raises his own *homminy*, and grows his own cotton, by the sweat of his hundred slaves.—*The Repertory*, Nov. 25: from the *N.Y. Evening Post*.
- 1814 Their most common food is *homony* and dried buffaloe meat.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Journal,' p. 249.
- 1823 At breakfast I found five or six sorts of bread, hot and cold, with boiled rice and *hominy*, Indian corn husked and boiled.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 53 (Lond.).
- 1824 [In Virginia] they never fail of having *hominy*, which is broken corn and beans mixed; coarse or fine ground; fried, baked, or boiled.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 71 (Boston).
- 1825 The corn bread and *homony* of an old Virginian.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 75.
- 1848 When milk was not plenty, the lack was supplied by the substantial dish of *hommony*, or pounded corn thoroughly boiled.—Monette, 'History of the Mississippi Valley,' ii. 8. (For a fuller citation see JOHNNY-CAKE.)

**Homologize.** To assimilate.

- 1811 [The federalists tried] to bring us into war with France and alliance with England, and finally to *homologize* our constitution to that of England.—Thomas Jefferson to Dr. Benjamin Rush, Jan. 16, from Monticello. (N.E.D.)

**Honey-locust, Honey-gum.** See quot. 1784.

- 1784 The *honey-locust* is curiously surrounded with large thorny spikes, bearing broad and long pods, in form of peas, has a sweet taste, and makes excellent beer.—John Filson's 'Kentucke,' p. 23.
- 1817 [The alluvion land produces] *honey-locust* (*Gleditoria triacanthus*), &c.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 258.
- 1818 The *honey-locust*, with its sharp interlocking spines, exemplifying the curse of Eden.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 87 (Boston, 1824).
- 1833 [I can] slip without a scratch down a *honey-locust*.—'Sketches of David Crockett,' p. 164. (For a fuller citation see HALF HORSE, HALF ALLIGATOR.)
- 1848 I often had to encounter a dead *honey-locust*.—Dr. Drake, 'Pioneer Life in Kentucky,' p. 70. (For a fuller citation see MAUL.)
- 1855 He squatted on his haunches, with the felicity and grace of a black bear at a *honey-gum*.—W. G. Simms, 'Border Beagles,' p. 317 (N.Y.).

**Honorable.**

- 1800 The use of this term, as applied to all the Government officers and members of Congress, is severely criticized in a letter signed "Juvenis."—*The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 29.

**Hoodlum.** A young rough, a "larrikin." Several suggestions have been put forward as to the origin of the word. Most probably it originated in a printer's error. (See Bartlett.) A newspaper man in San Francisco called a gang of street arabs *Noodlums*, reversing the name of their leader, Muldoon, and the type-setter took the *n* for a *h*.

- 1872 All the boys to be trained as....polite loafers, street-hounds, *hoodlums*, and bummers.—*Sacramento Weekly Union*, Feb. 24 (Farmer).
- 1876 Three *hoodlums* in San Francisco were convicted on a charge of stealing beer....The friends of the *hoodlums* came forward and liquidated the damage.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Nov. 7 (Bartlett).
- 1877 The outrages seem to have been committed by unorganized gangs of vicious *hoodlums*.—Telegram from San Francisco, July 25 (Bartlett).
- 1877 You at the East have but little idea of the *hoodlums* of [San Francisco]. They compose a class of criminals of both sexes;....travel in gangs; and are ready at any moment for the perpetration of any crime.—*Corr. Boston Journal*, Aug. (Century Dict.)
- 1878 This suggests the *hoodlum*, a young rough, which San Francisco has in fearful abundance.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 114.
- 1888 They were met by three young *hoodlums*, who jostled against the young lady.—*Missouri Republican*, April 1 (Farmer).

**Hoodoo.** A charm like that of the "evil eye." The word is probably a corruption of *Voodoo*. Hence to **HOODOO**, to place under a charm.

1889 The prospect of pleasing his party, and at the same time escaping a *hoodoo*, must be irresistibly attractive.—*N.Y. Sun*, March 20. (Century Dict.)

1895 Like the Mississippi, [the St. Lawrence] *hoodoos* whoever once touches it.—*Chicago Advance*, July 25. (N.E.D.)

1902 Bartell's got the whole gang *hoodooed*.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 300.

1909 It was the hope of political reward that first drew a following to Hearst; and it was the final conviction, that a fatal "*hoodoo*" rested upon him, so that he could never fill the offices with his friends and employees, which left him so . . . ridiculous a figure in the last campaign.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 19.

**Hoof, on the.** Alive.

1830 We generally bought our beef "*on the hoof*," and swam them off alongside.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 163.

1837 The pernicious and impoverishing practice of driving off beef cattle *on the hoof*.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, Feb. 21: *Cong. Globe*, p. 208.

**Hook.** A bend, cape, or corner. Du. *Hoek*.

1832 We were kept off the *hook*, waiting either for wind or tide.—E. C. Wines, 'Two Years and a Half in the Navy,' i. 19.

This name was given in N.Y. to several bends in the North and East Rivers: as Corlear's Hook, Powle's Hook, Sandy Hook, &c. (Bartlett, 1860.)

**Hook, on one's own.** On one's own account, not as part of a general enterprise or venture. Notice the varying accounts (1837, 1841, 1850) of the origin of the phrase.

1812 They forget that [Commodore] Rodgers himself says that he went *upon his own hook*.—*Boston-Gazette*, Nov. 23.

1836 Did he make these forgeries *on his own hook*, or at the instigation of the big bug? If the latter, which is most guilty?—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Aug. 24.

1837 The enthusiastic Jerseyman, who, without belonging to either side, was found at the battle of Monmouth "*fighting on his own hook* entirely."—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' ii. 133 (Lond.).

1841 Mr. Weller of Ohio explained that he was precisely in the same position with the old man at Yorktown, viz.: fighting in the political battle *on his own hook*. Mr. Jenifer said the gentleman had intimated that he was resolved to fight *on his own hook*; but he would remind him that people were sometimes hung on their own hook.—House of Repr., Feb. 15: *Cong. Globe*, pp. 178, 179.

1842 Mr. Arnold of Tennessee did not pretend to be in the arcana of either party; he fought *upon his own hook*.—The same, Aug. 11: *id.*, p. 80.

**Hook, on one's own—contd.**

- 1845 The time is fast approaching when we shall have our American Pope, our American Cardinals, and American Catholic everything *on our own hook*.—*N.Y. Herald*, Oct. (Bartlett).
- 1846 Now you say these men went out *on their own hook*; the men who have gone to Oregon must take care of themselves.—Mr. Baker of Illinois, House of Repr., Jan. 29 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 278.
- 1846 General Gaines . . . had raised an army *on his own hook*. He had called out troops on his own authority.—Mr. Archer of Virginia, U.S. Senate, June 5 : *id.*, p. 930.
- 1850 When resistance becomes necessary, North Carolina will act "*on her own hook*."—Mr. Stanly of N.C., House of Repr., March 7 : *id.*, p. 488.
- 1850 Mr. Brown of Mississippi said the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Seddon) reminded him of a valiant youth who, on the day succeeding the battle of New Orleans, was seen busily loading his gun and firing ; and upon being asked what he was doing, he replied that he was carrying on the war *on his own hook*.—The same, Sept. 7 : *id.*, p. 1775.
- 1853 Off we started, every man *on his own hook*.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 152.
- 1866 [He procured] subscribers *on his own hook*.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 216.

**Hook and ladder company.** A company of firemen.

- 1902 Raise an alarm, . . . and call out the *hook-and-ladder company* ?—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 129.

**Hooks, the.** A disease affecting horses' eyes.

- 1846 I had occasion to cut some of the fifty-four forties for the "simples" some days ago, and must now do it again,—but first explain the operation, as it is only understood in the West. It comes from horse surgery,—cutting a horse's eye for *the hooks*. The horse is subject to a disease of the eye, something like cataract ; and when emollient remedies fail, the knife is applied, and then the animal sees clear. So of the simples . . . Of course the operation cannot be performed on a Senator.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, June 1 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 894.

**Hoop-ash.** See quotation.

- 1817 The alluvion land produces . . . *hoop-ash* (*Celtis occidentalis*), &c.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 258.

**Hoosier.** An inhabitant of Indiana. (This word is unaccountably omitted from the N.E.D.)

- 1659 Torriano, in his Dictionary, has "Ninnatrice, a rocker, a stiller, a luller, a *whoosher* or a dandler of children asleep." (N.E.D., s.v. *Hush*.)
- 1833 There was a long-haired "*hooshier*" from Indiana.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 207 (Lond., 1835).

**Hoosier**—*contd.*

- 1833 I am now in the land of the *Hooshiers*, and find that long-haired race more civilized than some of their western neighbours are willing to represent them. The term "*Hooshier*," like that of Yankee, or Buckeye, first applied contemptuously, has now become a soubriquet that bears nothing invidious, to the ear even of an Indianian.—*Id.*, i. 223.
- 1835 [These boats are] manned by "real Kentucks," "Buckeyes," "*Hooshers*," and "Snorters."—Ingraham, 'The South West,' i. 105.
- 1836 The Illinoisans are called Suckers, the inhabitants of Indiana *Hooshiers*, and those of Ohio Buckeyes.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Oct. 14.
- 1839 The *Hoosier State* has reason to rejoice in the amount and value of its waters.—'Sketches of Iowa,' &c., by John Plumbe, p. 46 (St. Louis).
- 1840 Why have we witnessed manifestations of what must here, I suppose, be called chivalry, but which, in the *hoosier State*, the boys would call gostration?—Mr. Wick of Indiana, House of Repr., July 20 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 545.
- 1840 People in the Atlantic States know as little about the high and beating heart of the Mississippi Valley, as we Buckeyes, Corn-crackers, and *Hooshiers* do about Nova Zembla.—*Cincinnati Chronicle*, Aug. 26.
- 1841 Far in the stern [of the steamer at New Orleans] you see flitting about three or four gentle *hoosiers*, or buckeye fair ones.—'Arcturus' (N.Y.), ii. 53 (June).
- 1841 Mr. Howard (of Michigan) has gone clear out of the land of the Yankees, and has got a good deal of the *Hoosier* in him.—Mr. Kennedy of Indiana, House of Repr., June 30 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 132.
- 1843 The life, activity, and health of *Hoosiers* and *Hoosierinas* let loose.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 97.
- 1844 I was met by a dame of goodly proportions, surrounded by ten or twelve young *Hoosiers* and *Hoosierinas*, all nearly of a size, with long yellow hair, [and] a peculiarly wolfish expression about the mouth and eyes.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 264.
- 1846 A raw *Hooshier* girl, who had been our fellow-passenger from Louisville.—E. W. Farnham, 'Life in Prairie Land,' p. 17 (1855).
- 1846 "Sound the loud timbrel o'er valley and sea,  
The cord is now broken that bound thee to me,"  
as the *Hooshier* belle apostrophized her corset, on learning that the article had gone out of fashion.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' ii. 352.
- 1848 [The female teachers] make good wives; and they look "so almighty slick," that they will soon be released from school-teaching, by being called to preside over the houses of young *Hoosiers*.... I have spoken the result of our political lucubrations in *Hoosierland*.—Mr. Wick of Indiana, House of Repr., April 25 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 668.

**Hoosier**—*contd.*

- 1848 In the West, every political thingumderry . . . takes up your song, and does his little best to produce confusion in *Hoosierdom*, in hopes at least to minister to the spleen of him of Kinderhook [Martin Van Buren].—The same, Aug. 7: *id.*, p. 1119, App.
- 1852 Among the passengers in the cabin was H., a would-be wag, and a live *Hoosier*, fresh from the swamps and bogs of Indiana.—‘Rousing a Hoosier,’ *Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Dec. 22.
- 1853 He looks like a *Hoosieroon*; all he lacks is a chunk of gingerbread in his fist.—*Id.*, April 27.
- 1853 A big double-fisted *Hoosier*, with a huge pair of yellow whiskers, gray eyes, and long flowing soap-locks, [a] straddle of an old mare, with a sheepskin for a saddle.—*Olympia* (W.T.) *Columbian*, July 2.
- 1855 We can cap the climax by a leaf from our *Hoosier* reminiscences.—*Chicago Tribune*, n.d.
- 1856 He remained good English to the end of the dinner, only forgetting himself into *Hoosier* over the almonds and raisins.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlviii. 407 (Dec.).
- 1861 “O Lord, had the East done as well as the *Hoosier State* in furnishing men to put down this rebellion, we would not,” &c.—Utterance in a prayer-meeting at Logansport, Ind.: *Cincinnati Gazette*, Sept. 26.

**Hooter.** An atom. The word, which is of uncertain origin, appears as *hait* or *hate* in Pa., Ky., and Ohio: ‘Dialect Notes,’ i. 389.

- 1839 Now the Grampus [a vessel] stopt, and didn’t buge [budge] one *hooter*.—‘Major Jack on board a Whaler’: *Havana* (N.Y.) *Republican*, Aug. 21.
- 1843 The Injins never did us harm—no, not a *hait* (little bit).—R. Carlton, ‘The New Purchase,’ i. 172.
- 1848 Politicians don’t care a *hooter*, so long as their own selfish ends are obtained.—Dow, Jun., ‘Patent Sermons,’ i. 6.
- 1851 Niver fear a *hate*, mum; I’ll not forget a word.—T. S. Arthur, ‘Confessions of a Housekeeper,’ p. 165 (Phila.).
- 1853 Exhibitions which only steal away your sixpences, and do not add a *hooter* to either your morals or your healths.—Dow, Jun., iii. 110.
- a.1853 [The elephant, said cousin Ichabod,] put one of his tails in my coat pocket, and hauled out all the gingerbread,—every *hooter*.—*Id.*, iv. 272.
- a.1853 Let him be as dirty as the mortal in Missouri, who is assessed as real estate, still it makes not a *hooter* of difference.—*Id.*, iv. 209.
- 1862 Linkin says he warn’t skeered a *hooter*, but was only rarin mad.—‘Major Jack Downing,’ May 26.
- 1862 While he was settin there, ses he, “Major, I ain’t afeerd a *hooter*, but you see I didn’t want them seceshers to brag about killin me.”—*Id.*, July 21.



**Hop, at the first.** Immediately.

- 1840 It has ever been my custom, if I think an injury was intended me, to take it *at the first hop*.—Mr. Rives of Virginia (one of the fire-eaters) in the U.S. Senate, March 14: *Cong. Globe*, p. 268.

**Hopkinsians.** The followers of Samuel Hopkins (1721–1803), who taught Calvinism in its most repulsive form.

- 1821 In a few particulars *Hopkinsians* have superadded to the doctrinal part of this system.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 452.
- 1824 He is, in Albany, a professed Calvinist, and a sworn enemy to *Hopkinsian* principles.—*The Microscope*, June 5.
- 1837 I do not mean to say there are no good Christians among the *Hopkinsian Calvinists*.... Go into a *Hopkinsian-Presbyterian* church for a Sabbath, &c.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, ix. 354 (April).
- 1840 Mr. Austin was of the *Hopkinsian* school, and preached [at Worcester, Mass.] of original sin, and there being infants in hell not a span long.—E. S. Thomas, 'Reminiscences,' ii. 14 (Hartford, Ct.).
- 1850 *Hopkinsianism* [held] that guilt could be hereditary.—Whittier, 'Prose Works' (1889), ii. 132. (N.E.D.)

**Hopping John.** See quotations.

- 1838 Before me was an immense field of *hopping John*. (Note, Bacon and rice.)—Caroline Gilman, 'Recoll. of a Southern Matron,' p. 124.
- 1856 The greatest luxury with which [the people along the Congaree River, S.C.] are acquainted is a stew of bacon and peas, with red pepper, which they call *Hopping John*.—F. L. Olmsted, 'Slave States,' p. 506. (N.E.D.)
- [1830 The same phrase appears to have a different meaning in England: "What d'ye say to *Hopping John*, made Tom Nottle's fashion?—Landlord, mix pint of brandy wi' half a gallon of your best cider, sugared to your own taste; and pop in about a dozen good roasted apples, hissing hot, to take the chill off."—George Cruikshank's 'Three Courses and a Dessert,' p. 26.]

**Hopping mad.** Very angry indeed.

- 1675 I us'd to make him *hopping mad*.—Cotton, 'The Scoffer Scoft,' p. 52. (N.E.D.)
- a.1860 [he] said Liddy Ann was too old to wear plumes,.... which made Liddy *hoppin' mad*, and led to an awful quarrel.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' p. 275 (Bartlett).

**Hopples.** Fetters. E. Anglia, 1825, N.E.D.

- 1820 [The prisoners' staples] held them fast to the floor, except a black man, whose *hopples* were so carelessly made that he pulled his feet through them.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 12.

**Hop-toad.** A toad.

- 1827 An inhabitant of the Middle States talks of "*hop-toads*,"—as if all toads were not hoppers.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 28 : from *The Berkshire American*.
- 1830 "I would as soon think of driving a trade in *hop-toads*." "*Hop-toads* ! what are them ?" "Don't you know what *hop-toads* are ? They're little creatures that hop like a frog does, and catch a fly in less than no time." "I know what a toad is, well enough. But I should like to know if all toads don't hop." "By all means,—and that's the reason I call them *hop-toads*."—*Mass. Spy*, July 28 : from the *N.Y. Constellation*. (Given as a southernism.)
- 1861 He never said anything against killing flies, or pelting *hop-toads*, or tin-kettling the cat.—*Knick. Mag.*, lvii. 420 (April).

**Horizontal tariff.** One which imposes a uniform rate of duty.

- 1842 Was it expected that this committee would send in a *horizontal tariff* ?—Mr. Saltonstall of Mass., House of Repr., March 17 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 331.
- 1844 The *horizontal tariff* was impracticable. It never was put in practice, and it never would be.—Mr. Phelps of Vermont in the U.S. Senate, Feb. 16 : *id.*, p. 286.
- 1844 A *horizontal tariff* would be unfair, as well as unequal. [We ought] to levy, if it were possible to do so, the highest duties upon the luxuries of the rich, the lowest upon the necessaries of the poor.—Mr. Slidell of Louisiana, House of Repr., April 27 : *id.*, p. 387, App.
- 1845 We had a tariff of 20 per cent in 1841-42 ; and what was our revenue ? . . . What was the effect of this *horizontal duty* ?—Mr. Stewart of Pennsylvania, the same, Dec. 9 : *id.*, p. 35.
- 1845 The Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. R. J. Walker) had assumed that twelve-and-a-half per cent *horizontal* was the true revenue standard.—The same, Dec. 9 : *id.*, p. 56, App.
- 1847 I am not for eking out the insufficiencies of a *horizontal tariff* by taxes upon tea and coffee.—Mr. Winthrop of Mass., the same, Feb. 22 : *id.*, p. 409, App.

**Horn.** A glass of liquor. Obsolete in England, though Douglas Jerrold (1851) has a "*horn of ale*." (N.E.D.)

- 1682 He went to Queen's College, . . . and had a *horne* of beere.—Wood, 'Life,' May 31. (N.E.D.)
- 1824 I went to bed after taking but one *horn*.—*The Microscope*, Albany, April 3.
- 1824 See WORK LIKE A BEAVER.
- 1837 [He considered] the expedient he should next devise to obtain a *horn*.—*Knick. Mag.*, x. 255 (Sept.).
- 1840 I'll bet a *horn* of Monongahela whiskey that you have had your supper.—*Id.*, xvi. 236 (Sept.).

## Horn—contd.

- 1840 He called lustily for a *horn* of baldface and molasses.—  
*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, April 28.
- 1845 There was a suspension of hostilities, in order that the  
belligerents might take a *horn* and warm their fingers.—  
*Bangor Mercury*, n.d.
- 1848 Here's jest a leetle *horn* a piece in the bottle ;—let's lick  
once more round, and then absquattle.—W. E. Burton's  
'Waggeries,' p. 17 (Phila.).
- 1848 I wears no crape upon my hat  
'Cause I'm a packin' sent ;  
I only takes a extra *horn*,  
Observing, " Let Her Went ! "  
'Stray Subjects,' p. 109.
- 1853 I would rather not *take a horn* now, said the loafer to a  
mad bull ; but the bull insisted on treating, and the loafer  
got quite high.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, May 5.
- 1857 My opinion is that Mark was invited to take a *horn* ; in  
which case, I'm bold to say, the *horn* was taken.—S. H.  
Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 198.

**Horn, in a.** Equivalent to "over the left." Halliwell has "in a horn when the devil's blind."

- 1840 A jury case too, with lawyers for trimmings,  
And a plaintiff who looked so forlorn ;  
For his battered arm he bore in a sling,  
But I spec it was all *in a horn*.  
*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, Sept. 9.
- 1858 That is how I was converted ; was it, think you, *in a horn* ?—*Knick Mag.*, li. 145 (Feb.).
- 1858 I have mentioned before the innumerable comforts—in a *horn*—of the old White Sulphur Springs.—*Evening Star* (Washington), Aug. 26 (Bartlett).
- 1866 Methinks I see them, as *in a horn*, crowding the road, and swimming the rivers, and climbing the mountains, exclaiming with majestic fury,—  
We come, we come,—ye have called us long,—  
We come o'er the mountings—in a *horn*.  
C. H. Smith, ' Bill Arp,' p 56.

**Horn out, to. See quotation.**

- 1881 There are others who believe that Mac Veagh is trying his best to horn Blaine out of the Cabinet herd, just as young buffalo bulls *horn out* the old ones from the herd when they get superannuated.—Phila. *Times*, June 5.

**Horn spoon, by the. A ludicrous oath.**

- 1848                Sez Mister Foote,  
                        "I should like to shoot  
                        The holl gang, *by the gret horn spoon !*" sez he  
  'Biglow Papers,' No. 5.
- 1853     "*By the horn spoons !*" repeated the skipper suddenly.—  
*Knick. Mag., xli. 115 (Feb.).*

**Horn-bug.**

Worcester, 1846.

1776

— Thought *horn-bugs* bullets, or, through fears,  
Muskitoes took for musqueteers.

John Trumbull, 'McFingal.'

1869 I declare, you're saucy enough to physic a *horn-bug*.—  
Mrs. Stowe, 'Oldtown Folks,' ch. xxvii.

1878 That Bill is saassy enough to physic a *hornbug*. I never  
see the beat of him.—The same, 'Poganuc People,' ch. x.

**Horned toad, Horned frog.** A lizard of the genus *Phrynosoma*.

1806 A venerable Philosopher [Thomas Jefferson] sitting in the  
middle of an immense Map, marked with vast praires,  
huge rivers, and mountains of salt: surrounded by piles  
of Mammoth's bones, stuffed squirrel skins, and *horned*  
*toads*. . . . Chorus, This is the Man with his toads horns good  
store.—*Mass. Spy*, July 16.

1807 Expeditions for the purpose of picking up singular stones,  
shells, *horned frogs*, and wood chucks, in a country which  
we shall never settle.—*The Repertory*, Boston, Aug. 4.

\*.\* The preceding quotations ridicule the Louisiana  
purchase, and Mr. Jefferson's somewhat inflated descrip-  
tion of the territory thus acquired. See also Appendix,  
XXVI. and XXVII.

1888 The moss often held in its meshes a *horned toad*, a harmless  
little mottled creature that had two tiny horns, which it  
turned from side to side in the most knowing sort of way.  
—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 122.

**Hornety.** Irritable.

1834 The Ginerall got *hornety* as all nature at this.—Major Jack  
Downing, 'Letters,' p. 126 (N.Y.).

**Horn-pout.** A fish of the genus *Amiurus*.

1798 The company concluded to go, for the sake of seeing a  
*horn pout*—when at last I drew one up—and behold! what  
was it, but a cat fish!—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Aug. 3.

1860 Pond well stocked with *horn pouts*.—O. W. Holmes, 'Elsie  
Venner' (1887), p. 26. (N.E.D.)

1872 It was his great effort of the season on a bill for the protec-  
tion of *horn pout* in Little Muddy River.—'Poet at the  
Breakfast-Table,' ch. ix.

**Horn-snake.** See quotation.

1705 They have likewise the *Horn-Snake*, so called from a sharp  
Horn it carries in its Tail—R. Beverley, 'Virginia' (1722),  
p. 260. (N.E.D.)

**Hornswoggle.** To cheat, to deceive. Variations of this ungenteel  
word are classed with it.

1852 [He] had *honeyfackled* him in the matter of a heap of logs.  
—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 548. (For a fuller citation see CAHOOT.)

1856 They go cavorting out, *honey-fuggling* their consciences.—  
*Id.*, xlviii. 286 (Sept.).

1856 Pardon me for using the word; but Sharp "*honey-fuggled*"  
around me.—Mr. Bennet of Nebraska, House of Repr.,  
July 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 965, App.

**Hornswoggle—contd.**

- 1860 P. F. is going to *hornswoggle* the Douglas Democrats.—*Oregon Argus*, May 12.
- 1862 Now we want the particulars as to how much *honey fugging* and wool pulling was done.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Aug. 14.
- 1865 I ain't no giant killer. I ain't no Norwegian bar. I ain't no boar-constriker. But I'll be *hornswoggled* if the talkin an the writin an the slanderin has got to be done all on one side any longer. Some of your folks have got to dry up, or turn our folks loose.—Bill Arp's 'Letter to Artemus Ward,' Sept. 1.
- 1866 I can't be *honeyfuggled* as to how my money comes, and how it goes.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 119.

**Horrors, give the.** To terrify. The phrase "the horrors" is English: see 1768, 1780; but "give the horrors" is perhaps American.

- 1768 He is coming this way all in *the horrors*.—Goldsmith, 'The Good-natured Man.' (N.E.D.)
- 1780 London is in *the horrors*.—J. Adams, 'Fam. Letters' (1876), p. 382. (N.E.D.)
- 1794 The Sans-Culottes have *given the horrors* to all the aristocrats in the West Indies.—Letter from St. Eustatius in *The Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Aug. 4.

**Horse of another color.** This is probably English, but is claimed as an Americanism until an earlier date than 1798 can be found. Shakspeare has "My purpose is indeed *a horse of that colour*": 'Twelfth Night,' ii. 3. (N.E.D.) A descendant of the Polk family says that his grandfather, writing at the time of Mr. Polk's election to the presidency, said, "they thought he would never win, but he proved a grey horse of a different colour." He adds that the phrase is common in the South, and the horse is always grey.

- 1798 Whether any of them may be induced to swear to support the cause of monarchy, or to enter into the pay of King John I. [President Adams] is "*a horse of another colour*."—*The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 27.
- 1856 This identical issue is now presented, only "*the horse is of another color*."—Mr. Morrill of Vermont, House of Repr., June 28: *Cong. Globe*, p. 680, App.
- 1867 What did you think of his wife? That's *a horse of another colour* altogether.—Anthony Trollope, 'Chron. of Basset,' i. 216. (N.E.D.)
- 1872 But this is *a hoss of another colour*.—J. M. Bailey, 'Folks in Danbury,' p. 37.

**Horse-back.** See quotations.

- 1851 The pumpkin Pine is generally found on flat land, and in ravines; also on abrupt ridges, called *horsebacks*, where the forest is dense.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 41 (N.Y.).
- 1857 There were singular long ridges, called *horsebacks*, covered with ferns.—Thoreau, 'Maine Woods' (1894), p. 390. (N.E.D.)

**Horse-car.** A tram-car drawn by horses. 1864. (Webster.)

1883 Everything she had in her porte-monnaie except some *horse-car* tickets.—*Century Mag.*, p. 240. (N.E.D.)

**Horse-guard.** See quotations.

1837 *Horse Guard*, a species of large Hornet that burrows in the sand, [and] destroys the flies.—John L. Williams, 'The Territory of Florida,' p. 71 (N.Y.).

1838 Within a few years, a yellow insect larger than the "green-head" has made its appearance wherever the latter was found, and from its sweeping destruction of the annoying fly has been called the "*horse-guard*."—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 108 (N.Y.).

**Horse-heaven.** A heaven for horses.

1824 [Our filthy streets emit] such savoury exhalations as may be supposed to arise from skunk's purgatory, if there is such a place, and we know of no reason why there should not be, as well as a *horse-heaven*.—*The Microscope*, Albany, N.Y., May 22, p. 43/2

**Horse-railroad.**

1858 Busy Cambridge Street with its iron river of the *horse-railroad*.—'Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table,' ch. vii. (N.E.D.)

1859 These gentlemen ask the power to run a *horse-railroad* along Pennsylvania Avenue for two or three miles.—Mr. Wilson of Mass., U.S. Senate, Jan 29 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 670.

**Horse sense.** Practical good sense.

1833 He's a man of good strong *horse sense*.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' ii. 215 (Lond.).

1845 He is an odd genius, and withal has good *horse sense*.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' i. 190.

1859 [The guides were] rough as pine-knots from their own native forests, but [had] a kind of "*hard horse*" *sense*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxiv. 229.

1870 The new phrase,—born in the West, we believe,—of "*horse-sense*," which is applied to the intellectual ability of men who exceed others in practical wisdom.—*The Nation*, N.Y., Aug. 18. (N.E.D.)

1872 He had what is roughly known as "*horse-sense*."—C. D. Warner, 'Backlog Studies,' p. 124. (N.E.D.)

1893 A round bullet head, not very full of brain, yet reputed to be fairly stocked with what is termed *horse-sense*.—*Lippincott's Mag.*, p. 260 (*Notes and Queries*, 9 S. ii. 131).

**Horse-swap.** An exchange of horses.

1840 I'm the boy, continued he ; perhaps a leetle, jist a leetle, of the best man at a *horse-swap* that ever trod shoe-leather.—A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 24.

**Horse-thief.**

- 1768 A numerous collection of outcast mullatoes, mustees and free negroes, all *horse-thieves*.—*Boston Chronicle*, No. 43. [For fuller quotation see Mr. Albert Matthews's letter on 'Lynch Law,' in the *N.Y. Nation*, Dec. 4, 1902, p. 441.]
- 1778 He had been....committed to gaol for desertion, and on suspicion of his being a *horse-thief*.—*N.J. Gazette*, Sept. 16.
- 1800 Sweezy was arrested (being an old *horse thief*) and his papers examined.—Thomas Jefferson, 'The Anas,' Jan. 2.

**Horse-trotting.** See quotation.

- 1858 Horse-racing is not a republican institution; *horse-trotting* is....Wherever the trotting horse goes, he carries in his train brisk omnibuses, lively bakers' carts, and therefore hot rolls, the jolly butcher's wagon, the cheerful gig, the wholesome afternoon drive with wife and child,—all the forms of moral excellence, except truth, which does not agree with any kind of horse-flesh. The racer brings with him gambling, cursing, drinking, and a distaste for mob-caps and the middle-aged virtues.—'Autocrat of the Breakfast Table,' ch. ii.

**Hose company.** A company of firemen, handling the hose.

- 1806 The efforts of several *hose and fire companies* at length prevailed.—*Mass. Spy*, May 21.

**Hoss for horse.** A term ludicrously used.

- 1844 The judge demanded of the groom, "Will you take Susan Jenkins as your lawful wedded wife?" "Well, *hoss*, I reckon I will; I wouldn't have rid since daylight, and packed her here, if I didn't mean to do the clean thing."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, x. 168.
- 1847 None of your stuck-up imported chaps from the dandy states, but a real genuine Westerner,—in short, a *hoss*.—Robb, 'Squatter Life,' p. 70 (Bartlett).
- 1849 [He was] the best fellow in College, barring a leetle too much of "*hoss and devil*" in his composition.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xv. 115.
- 1850 Come quick, dear doctor! that's a good *old hoss*.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 90.
- 1851 That old gal was er *hoss*! Pledge you my word I believe she was pizen.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 69.
- 1852 That was a long race, I tell you, *hosses*.—H. C. Watson, 'Nights in a Block-house,' p. 29 (Phila.).
- 1853 Hello, *old hoss*, whar hev you been this coon's age?—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 201.
- 1855 [One of the company] declared he was "*a hoss*," and no mistake.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 612 (Dec.).
- 1859 'Lite, 'lite, *old hoss*! we'll fix a place for you in our cabin.—*Knick. Mag.*, liii. 317 (March).

**Hot box.** A journal box overheated by friction.

- 1855 They shout orders about "couplings," and "switches," and "*hot-boxes*," until the waiting passengers almost swear with disappointment and cold.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 199 (Feb.).



**Hot cakes.** To go off like hot cakes: i.e., rapidly.

1860 A reporter said: All classes [in Charleston] are arming for the contingency of coercion. Revolvers and patent fire-arms are *selling like hot cakes*.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. of the Southern Rebellion,' i. 46 (1861).

1861 [The next day,] down came an order for a dozen baskets [of the wine,] and it now goes off like hot cakes.—*Knicker. Mag.*, lviii. 259 (Sept.).

**Hot water war.** A name sarcastically applied to a riot in Pennsylvania, which occurred in March, 1799. Certain persons had poured hot water, or something equally unpleasant, on the head of the federal tax-collector, and were arraigned for treason. They were pardoned by President John Adams, in a proclamation dated May 21, 1800.

1799 Porcupine first exposed him. Fenno tore the mask, and the hot water insurrection, Lancaster, and Montgomery's new method of preserving the law inviolate, have clearly exhibited the cloven foot.... The tale of a tub begat the *hot water war*, and that begat the devil among the taylora.—*The Aurora*, Phila., May 3.

1799 This *hot water war* will turn out a very dirty business to its authors in the end.—*Id.*, May 4, under the heading of 'The State Trials.'

1800 Three citizens were condemned to death for participating in this *hot water war*.—*Id.*, June 11.

1800 [In Philadelphia, Noah Webster] will find the London Cockneyisms flourish in perfection—veal—here converted into weal,—and wine into vine,—the *hot-water-war* he will find described as a *hot water war*, &c.—*Id.*, June 20.

**House-lot.** A lot suitable for a house.

1661 [I.et] none have less than ten acres for their *houcelots* and five acres of meadow.—'Hist. of Groton,' Mass. (1848), p. 16. (N.E.D.)

The N.E.D. also gives references 1693, 1706.

1805 "*House Lots*" advertised for sale in *The Repertory*, Boston, Nov. 26.

1806 A handsome *House Lot*, containing one acre of land.—*Advt.*, *Mass. Spy*, Aug. 27.

1821 This use of the word *lot* is, I believe, American only. The division of land in a township was made by lot; and the portion which fell to each individual was called his lot. Thus one [had] his *house* or *home-lot*; another his plain-lot; another his mountain-lot, &c.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 305-6, note.

**House-raising.** A concerted enterprise of building.

1783 A dispute having arisen between Mr. C. S. and myself, at a *house-raising* last year, in which we both got warm and angry.—*Maryland Journal*, Aug. 29.

**Houstonize.** To maltreat in some way.

1837 The president pronounced us liars all the way from Washington to the Hermitage, and said here we ought to be *Houstonized*.—Mr. Wise of Virginia, House of Repr., Oct. 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 326, App.

**Hove** for heaved. The preterite *hof* occurs ab. 1000. (N.E.D.)

1770 The ice is computed to be 40 Feet thick, *hove* one upon the top of another.—Letter from “Bowdointown at Eastward,” *Mass. Gazette*, Feb. 12.

1794 The man *hove* a shovel of dirt at Mr. Flood’s head.—*Mass. Spy*, April 16.

1845 “What’s the matter, John?” “Why, Sam *hove* a bible at me, and hit my head.”—*Nauvoo Neighbor*, July 23.

1849 I *hove* a man clean across that river t’other day.—*Frontier Guardian*, June 27.

1857 She *hove* a stone clear over our fence yesterday.—*Knicker. Mag.*, l. 105 (July).

**Hoven.** Swollen. Applied to cattle which have “the heaves.”

1573 Tom Piper hath *hoven* and puffed vp cheekes ;  
If cheese be so *hoven*, make Cisse to seek creekes.

Tusser’s ‘Husbandry.’ (N.E.D.)

1805 *Hoven* cattle.—One evil attending luxuriant clover is the subjecting cattle to become *hoven*, by too greedily feeding on this grass.—*The Balance*, Aug. 6, p. 252.

1827 Mr. Thenard has made use of ammoniac for fourteen *hoven* cows.—*Mass. Spy*, July 4.

**Hub.** The middle piece of a wheel. The word occurs in 1649 (see N.E.D.), but appears first as a dictionary word in Webster, 1828.

1821 Lost, a plated Hoop, from my Chaise *Hob*.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, Oct. 24.

1858 The *hubs* of logs from the “Settler’s ellum,”—  
Last of its timber,—they couldn’t sell ‘em.

\* \* \* \* \*

And the back-cross bar as strong as the fore,  
And spring and axle and *hub* encore.

O. W. Holmes, ‘The One-Hoss Shay.’

**Hub, The.** Boston, Mass.

[1789 I suppose you call Baltimore *the Centre Peg* ; but here we say Fredericksburg.—Letter from Williamsburg, *Maryland Journal*, Jan. 29.]

1858 Boston State-House is *the hub of the Solar system*. You couldn’t pry that out of a Boston man if you had the tire of all creation straightened out for a crowbar.—‘Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table,’ ch. vi. (N.E.D.)

**Hub, up to the.** Thorough, thoroughly.

1800 [Mr. Ross said :] “Sir, this is not a half measure—I like to do things by the lump—and this bill you will allow is *up to the hub*.” Those who are acquainted with the slang language of the American Caucuses will be able to explain what is meant by *up to the hub*. It is reported about town that among other great men Jonathan Dayton is *up to the hub*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., May 23.

**Hub, up to the—contd.**

- 1800 When this Senator was told by another Senator that his bill was a very bold and alarming step, Mr. Ross very coolly replied, "Yea, it is up to the hub."—*Id.*, Nov. 15.
- 1806 Using a coarse expression, Mr. McRea, in all things necessary to promote the views of the party, was "up to the hub."—*The Balance*, Jan. 14, p. 11.
- 1831 [They] talked of being "up to the hub"....for General Jackson.—*Harper's Mag.* (1884), p. 277. (N.E.D.)
- 1847 We 'spect you to be right co-chunk, up to the hub on them thar questions.—Robb, 'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 31.
- 1852 Any man that won't go for Kossuth, clear up to the hub.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 361 (1860).
- 1856 I shouldn't commune with nobody that didn't believe in election, up to the hub.—'Dred,' ch. xxiii.

**Huckleberry.** The same as the whortleberry.

- 1670 The Fruits natural to the Island are Mulberries, Posimons, Grapes great and small, *Huckelberries*.—D. Denton, 'Description of N. York' (1845), p. 3. (N.E.D.)
- 1705 There are three Sorts of Hurta, or *Huckleberries*, upon Bushes, Two to Ten Foot high.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' ii. 15.
- 1768 Three boys went out in the morning of that day to gather *huckle berries*.—*Boston Evening Post*, Aug. 29.
- 1770 A lad about eleven Years old, as he was gathering *Whortle-Berries* [near Danvers] was bit by a Rattle-Snake.—*Id.*, Sept. 10.
- 1848 As you said in 1840, Harrison was picking *whortleberries* two miles off, while the battle was being fought, I suppose it is a just conclusion to say Cass was aiding Harrison to pick *whortleberries*.—Mr. Abraham Lincoln of Illinois, House of Repr., July 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1042, App.

**Huckleberry and persimmon.** The connexion of the one with the other is not obvious; but the phrases in which the words occur explain themselves. A variation will be noticed, 1836.

- 1833 We must make a straight wake behind us; for if the horn [broad-horn] gets broadside to the current, I wouldn't risk a *huckleberry* to a *persimmon* that we don't every soul get treed, and sink to the bottom, like gone suckers.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' i. 139-140 (Lond.).
- 1833 It's a disgraceful shot,—what I call a full *huckleberry* below a *persimmon*.—*Id.*, ii. 62.
- 1836 It is a *huckleberry* above my *persimmon* to cipher out how I find myself the most popular bookmaker of the day.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 13.
- 1836 One of the nominees was a *hickory* over anybody's *persimmon* in the way of ugliness.—'A Quarter Race in Kentucky' (ed. 1846, p. 17).
- 1844 She's a great gal that! Show me another like her any whar, and I am thar directly. She's a *huckleberry* above most people's *persimmons*.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 24.

**Huckleberry and persimmon—contd.**

- 1855 [This] was, in western parlance, "*a huckleberry above his persimmon*."—W. G. Simms, 'Border Beagles,' p. 308 (N.Y.).
- 1856 My larning ain't *a huckleberry to your persimmon*.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 553 (N.Y.).
- 1885 I'm *a huckleberry above that persimmon*.—Admiral Porter, 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 204.

**Huckleberry heaven.** An indefinite locality.

- 1856 He'll make as good a husband for the gal as she'll find 'twixt here and *huckleberry heaven*.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 403.

**Huffed, Huffy.** Offended, easily offended.

- 1800 *The Philadelphia Gazette* is *huffed* at our stating a fact.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Dec. 18.
- 1825 Brockett, *Huff*, to offend. "She's easily *huffed*." (N.E.D.)
- 1855 They said that some mischief was going on, and some of them were right *huffy* about it.—George A. Smith at the Mormon Tabernacle, March 18: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 215.

**Huge Paws.** A nickname at one time applied to the Democratic working men of New York.

- 1839 "How do you account for this, Mr. *Huge Paw*?" was the question.—*Eastern Argus*, Portland, Me., Sept. 24, p. 2/3.
- 1846 The *Huge Paws* ought to have another meeting at Tammany Hall before they make their nominations.—*N.Y. Herald*, Oct. 7 (Bartlett).

**Hull.** The framework of a building (?).

- 1823 The Commissioners will let to the lowest bidder the building of a *hull* for the Court-House at Fayette.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, Aug. 12.

**Hull for whole.**

- 1835 Six months ago, this *hull* country was the most prosperous in the world.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 79 (Phila.).
- 1839 I was determined to go the *hull* figure, and see all.—'Major Jack on board a Whaler,' in *The Havana* (N.Y.) *Republican*, Aug. 21.
- 1845 "I've bought out the *hull* grocery," sings out Jake Miller, standin' in Cap'n Todd's store with a *hull* raft o' fellers.—*St. Louis Reveille*, Sept. 1.
- 1847 I can give you . . . a wild cat-skin, pulled off *hull*, stuffed with cornshucks, for a pillow.—T. B. Thorpe, 'The Big Bear of Arkansas,' p. 21 (Phila.).
- 1849 I vow my *hull* sheer o' the spoils wouldn't come nigh a V spot.—'Biglow Papers,' No. 8.
- 1856 How large is that air live whale? Big enough to swallow a *hull* town, I spose, ain't he?—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Nov. 22.



**Hum for home. To hum. At home—contd.**

- 1840 "Well, where were you going?" "*To hum*, to see mother."—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, July 10.
- 1845 I wandered where a stranger stood,  
With earnest heavenward gaze,  
As if some mystic vision lay  
Beneath the horizon's haze.  
His eagle eye met mine; he spoke;  
I stood entranced and dumb;  
*It's gwine to rain like sixty, gal!*  
*You'd better dig for home.*
- 'Lowell Offering,' v. 81.
- 1848 Wen I left *hum*, I hed two legs, an' they worn't bad ones neither.—'Biglow Papers,' No. 8.
- 1848 Next mornin' the ginerall was found *to hum* with a sighter old gold pieces.—W. E. Burton, 'Waggeries,' p. 14 (Phila.).
- 1848 "How d'ye do, folks?" said the stranger; "is the boss devil *to hum?*"—*Id.*, p. 63.
- 1852 Where do I live?—why, I live with my father *to hum* when I'm *to hum*; and I guess it's about as good a *hum* as any body's got.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Dec. 18.
- 1853 He swore he hadn't a shillin' *to-hum*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 222 (Sept.).
- 1854 When the long circles cluster round, I wish I was *to-hum*.—*Springfield Republican*, n.d. [For a fuller citation, see COAST.]
- 1854 He said W. warn't so near straight on the licker question as his yaller dog at *hum*.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 106.
- 1854 "Make yerselves *to hum*," said he; and so we staid.—*Knick. Mag.*, xliv. 16 (July).
- 1856 There wa'nt nobody *to hum* but her, so I went right in ker dash, and sot down.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 2.
- 1856 By the powers of mud, old woman,  
If I catch your daughter from *home*,  
You'd better believe, I'll live in the clover,  
And enjoy it, I reckon, some.
- Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 171.
- 1857 He remembered his own dear mother knitting away in the *humstead*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 39 (Jan.).
- 1857 Squire Allen presented [the deacon] with a bran new shining five dollar gold piece, and invited him *hum* to dinner in the bargain.—*Id.*, l. 241 (Sept.).
- 1858 Jest you get right up neow, and go straight *hum*.—*Id.*, li. 2 (Jan.).
- 1860 I was a little shaver, helping the bigger boys Calvin and Enoch and all sorts of Puritan scrap-names to drive the cows "*hum*" of an evening.—*Id.*, lvi. 290 (Sept.).
- 1861 Heow d'ye du, Emerline? hope yer gwine ter stay ter *hum* a spell.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 148 (Feb.).

- Human.** A human being. The N.E.D. gives an instance ab. 1533; and Charles Lamb, in his 'Last Essays of Elia' (Ellistoniana) writes of "all the savoury esculenta, which . . . Ocean pours forth upon poor *humans* from her watery bosom."
- a.1611 Mars, smear'd with the dust and bloud Of *humans*, and their ruin'd wala.—Chapman, 'Iliad,' v. 441. (N.E.D.)
- 1830 'Tis strange to us to see company. I expect the sun may rise and set a hundred times before I shall see another *human* that does not belong to the family.—Mrs. Trollope, 'Manners of the Americans,' i. 70. [This was near Cincinnati.]
- 1833 They don't raise such *humans* in the Old Dominion, no how.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 91.
- 1833 Keep that, if you please, stranger, till you meet with a homelier *human* than yourself, and then give it to him.—*Id.*, p. 92.
- 1842 How in the deuce does Lancaster raise so many smart *humans*?—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Oct. 20.
- 1845 I can't tell you how I felt, but it warn't like a *human*.—W. G. Simms, 'The Wigwam and the Cabin,' p. 43.
- 1845 [I saw] a *human* half across a log, with his legs hanging in the water.—*Id.*, p. 48.
- a.1848 Why *humans*, with all their wisdom, should have bestial propensities, is all a mystery.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 86.
- 1851 Brutes, in a common way, is more knowiner 'an *humans*.—'Capt. Sugge,' p. 183.
- 1851 I've heard of some monsus explites kicked up by the brown bars, sich as totein' off a yoke of oxen, and eatin' *humans* raw, and all that kind o' thing.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 49.
- a.1853 Woman, primarily, was a sort of second-hand *human*.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 30.
- a.1853 [A wife] expects to be treated like a *human*, at least.—*Id.*, iii. 123.
- a.1853 —That kind of courage which braces a *he-human* to "do all that may become a man,"—and a few more.—*Id.*, iv. 209.
- 1855 [He looked] more like a galvanized dead subject than a living *human*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 347 (April).
- 1857 I threw my hunter's cap at [the moose,] but he pitched into it, and if he didn't trample it into the ground, as if it was a *human*, you may shoot me.—Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 322.
- 1867 His dogs were, he said, the best trained of any in Georgia, and would follow nothing but *humans*.—W. L. Goss, 'A Soldier's Story,' p. 134.
- 1878 The mineral [in the spring] has strange effects on the male *human*.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 373.
- 1905 They are unanimous in pronouncing [President Roosevelt] the ugliest *human* on earth.—*Fayetteville (Ark.) Daily*, Oct. 28.



**Human—contd.**

1907 "Sleep overpowers when *humans* fail."—Heading with reference to the capture of a maniac : *St. Louis Republic*, Oct. 28.

1911 One of the principal menaces [to health] is to be found in the cheap boarding houses where no animal, let alone a *human*, should be permitted to live.—*Convention Journal*, Diocese of Oregon, p. 91 (June).

**Humbird.** A humming bird.

1634 As she flies, she makes a little humming noise like a Humblebee ; wherefore shee is called the *Humbird*.—W. Wood, 'New England Prosp.' (1865), p. 31. (N.E.D.)

1791 One of those beautiful birds called *Humbirds*.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Sept. 7.

1806 Rattlesnakes are frequent and *humbirds* common in New-england.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 1.

1891 I never see a *humbird* fuller o' buzz than little Prudy.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Huckleberries,' p. 167 (Boston).

**Humhum.** A thin cambric material.

1820 I can foresee the time when our fine twilled linen shall be as much superior to the bleach rotted linen imported, or the sleazy *humhum*, as they are to a cobweb.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 5.

**Humility.** See quotations.

1634 The *Humilities* or Simplicities (as I may rather call them) bee of two sorts, the biggest being as big as a greene Plover, the other as big as birds we call Knots in England.—W. Wood, 'New England Prosp.' (1865), p. 34. (N.E.D.)

1781 "Larks, *humilitys*, whipperwills, dewminks" are named among the native birds.—Samuel Peters, 'History of Connecticut,' p. 255 (Lond.).

**Hunkers, Old Hunkers.** These were the conservative Democrats in the days of Tyler and Polk, the more radical members of the party being the BARNBURNERS, *q.v.*

1844 The "*Old Hunkers*," as the drill-sergeants of the party are styled, expect to be, and are, rewarded with appointments to office. . . . The "*Old Hunkers*" will be first provided for, and the power will be given to [them] to fill all the offices in their districts.—Mr. Hardin of Illinois, House of Repr., March 21 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 632, App.

1844 The "*old Hunkers*," as they are termed, have held for years here the dispensation of public office. No wonder these "*old Hunkers*" throve, and their eyes stood out with fatness. The "*old Hunkers*" must give way. They have ruled long enough.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Dec. 2.

1846 Croswell is a *hunker* in State politics ; goes for Texas, slavery, Polk, Marcy, and Canada, Oregon, plunder, war : anything to make money.—Wm. L. Mackenzie, 'Life of M. Van Buren,' p. 147 (Boston).

1846 I was told that the sons of St. Tammany had degenerated into *old hunkers*, barnburners, and office-seekers.—Mr. Wick of Indiana, House of Repr., July 1 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1041, App.

**Hunkers, Old Hunkers—contd.**

- 1848 When Mr. Polk came fully and practically to declare, not to the victors, but to the *Hunkers*, belong the spoils, what do you see?—Mr. Holmes of New York, the same, Aug. 7: *id.* p. 1112, App. (The whole speech is full of allusions to the Hunkers and the Barnburners.)
- a.1848 My inveterate enemies, the *Hunkers*, are getting excited. —Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 130. See p. 421
- 1849 He is now the leader of the *Hunkers* of Missouri.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, July 11 (Bartlett).
- 1853 The *old hunkers* are bitter against [Mr. Wise of Virginia], and say that Gen. Cushing ought to satisfy John Tyler.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, March 24.
- 1856 Not forgetting to get an occasional "dab" at *old Hunkerism*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 223.
- 1863 Gen. Butler's friends were chiefly of the *hunker* persuasion. —Parton's 'Butler in New Orleans,' p. 184.
- 1863 I resolve *hunkerism* into indolence and cowardice, too lazy . . . and too timid to think.—Wendell Phillips, 'Speeches,' p. 528. (N.E.D.)
- 1864 A white-haired old man, well preserved, and a stickler for law and precedent, and a *Hunker*.—*Boston Commonwealth*, June 3.

**Huntingdon root.** See quotation.

- 1788 Mr. Laurens [of South Carolina] is now growing upwards of 1600 plants of the *Huntingdon root*. The leaf, boiled, is to the taste a high flavoured spinage. This root was formerly called Mangel Wurzel, or Root of Scarcity.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 28.

**Hurrah boys.** See quotation.

- 1836 [Some have declared] that his election had been brought about by the "*hurrah boys*," and those who knew just enough to shout "hurrah for Jackson!"—Mr. Niles in the U.S. Senate, Feb. 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 115, App.

**Hurra's nest.** A complete tangle.

- 1829 A queer looking Dutchman, with a head like a "*hurra's nest*."—Longfellow, in 'Life' (1891), i. 164. (N.E.D.)
- 1840 Everything was pitched about in grand confusion. There was a complete *hurrah's nest*, as the sailors say, "everything on top and nothing at hand."—R. H. Dana, 'Two Years before the Mast,' chap. ii. (N.E.D.)
- 1848 Sich another *hurra's nest* I never did hear [as the orchestra at the opera].—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 98.
- 1856 The remainder of her person seemed to be a miscellaneous sort of *hurrah's nest*, or promiscuous wilderness of all sorts of laces and jewelry, among which about four dozen bracelets shone conspicuously.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlviii. 283 (Sept.).
- 1869 You've got our clock all to pieces, and have been keeping up a perfect *hurrah's nest* in our kitchen.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Oldtown Folks,' chap. iv. (Bartlett).

**Hurricane.** This word, classed by Mr. Bartlett among Americanisms, has been continuously used in England for about 350 years, under varying forms. But the word, in the sense of the space cleared by a storm, is a genuine Americanism, though not noticed as such by Mr. Bartlett.

- 1775 We travelled chiefly through pine land, and some *hurricane ground*. Note, 'Tracts of wood formerly destroyed by hurricanes are so called.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 307. (N.E.D.)
- 1824 *Hurricanes* are so called from the appearance of the land when stripped by a violent wind.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, Feb. 12.
- 1833 I went to get a neighbour to drive for us, and off we started for the *Harricane*....As I was going 'long, I seed two elk burst out of the *Harricane*....I was going 'long down to a little *Harricane*, where I knew there must be a plenty of bear....My dogs had been running ever since sunrise, and we had all passed through a *harricane*, which of itself was a day's work....We were soon on foot, moving merrily forward to a small *hurricane* which had been agreed upon for a drive.—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' pp. 92, 94, 98, 101, 196.
- 1855 I was in a "*harricane thick*," on the butt-end of an almighty big tree.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' p. 255. ["Thick" is a thicket.]

**Hurricane deck.** A light upper deck on a steamer.

- 1835 On some of the larger steamers there is yet a third deck and range of cabins before you come to the roof or *hurricane deck*, upon the forward extremity of which the glazed and painted cabinet containing the tiller is placed.—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' i. 286 (Lond.).
- 1835 [You] quit the cabin for the seats on the boiler deck, or, better still, for the *hurricane-deck* above.—*Id.*, p. 294.
- 1835 I got on the *hurricane deck*, took off my hat, and returned the salute.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 147 (Phila.).
- 1838 The whole length of her *hurricane deck* was entirely swept away.—*The Jeffersonian*, Albany, May 5, p. 96.
- 1838 It was delightful to remove from the noise, and heat, and confusion below, to the lofty *hurricane deck*.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 29 (N.Y.).
- 1842 The promenade or *hurricane deck*.—Chas. Dickens, 'American Notes' (1868), p. 46. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 Going out upon the *hurricane deck*, the first object, &c.—James Weir, 'Lonz Powers,' i. 201 (Phila.).
- 1852 All who had hurried upon the "*hurricane-deck*" were horrified.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xl. 157 (Aug.).
- 1853 Around the bows and upon the guards the bales [of cotton] are piled as high as the "*hurricane deck*."—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 412.

**Hurricane deck—contd.**

- 1855 Just as the people were rushing up the stairway upon the *hurricane-deck*, the boat drove upon the shore.—D. G. Mitchell, 'Fudge Doings,' i. 195.
- 1860 The rain now patters on the *hurricane deck*, and lights suddenly gleam in the cabin.—*Richmond Enquirer*, July 13, p. 1/7.
- 1875 The boiler deck, the *hurricane deck*, and the Texas deck are fenced and ornamented with clean white railings.—Mark Twain, 'Old Times on the Mississippi': *Atlantic Monthly*, p. 70.
- 1882 Almost before you could jump into the water, the flames burst through the *hurricane roof*.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' x. 478 (Richmond, Va.).

**Hurry up.** Be quick, be quick with.

- 1849 Girls, *hurry up* breakfast.—*Frontier Guardian*, July 25. [For a fuller quotation see JOHNNY-CAKE.]
- 1856 The bridge-tender vociferates, "*Hurry up!* vessels coming! bridge must open!"—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlvii. 633 (June).
- 1859 You small boy there, *hurry up* that 'Webster's Unabridged.'—'Professor at the Breakfast-Table,' chap. ii.
- 1866 [He requested the caterer] to *hurry up* them three eggs three minutes.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxxi. 230.

**Hush!** The use here illustrated is a southernism.

- 1846 *Oh hush!* It makes my mouth water now, to think what a beautiful row we had.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 88.

**Husking, Husking-bee, Husking-frolie.** A social gathering for husking Indian corn, which sometimes ended badly.

- 1721 Fair day; *husking* at Colo's.—B. Lynde, 'Diary' (1880), p. 132. (N.E.D.)
- 1764 One of the Patients went into a large Company who were *husking*.—*Boston Evening Post*, Jan. 30.
- 1793 The laws of *husking* every wight can tell,  
And sure no laws he ever keeps so well;  
For each red ear, a general kiss he gains;  
With each smut ear he smuts the luckless swains;  
But when to some fair maid the prize is cast,  
Red as her lip, and taper as her waist,  
She walks the round, and calls one favor'd beau,  
Who leaps the luscious tribute to bestow.  
Joel Barlow, 'The Hasty Pudding.'
- 1821 A woman of Winchester, Va., in a fit of intoxication, was lately burned to death at a *corn husking*.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, Dec. 7.
- 1823 [A candle was] used by the family while employed in *husking corn* in one of the barns.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 3.
- 1825 The *Husking* prevails throughout New England only.... When the practice began, it was an act of neighbourly kindness: a piece of downright labour, done for nothing. It is now a wicked and foolish frolick, at another man's expense.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 53.

**Husking, Husking-bee, Husking-frolie—contd.**

- 1828 "A *husking* as it is," described in *The Yankee*, p. 277 (Portland, Maine).
- 1830 Levi Odle, who was lately killed at a "*husking bee*" in Burns, N.Y., was drunk.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 24.
- a.1838 A fight came off at Maysville, Ky., in which a Mr. Coulster was stabbed in the side, and is dead; a Mr. Gibson was well hacked with a knife; a Mr. Farr was dangerously wounded. This entertainment was the winding up of a *corn husking frolic*, when all doubtless were right merry with good whisky.—*N.Y. Daily Whig*, cited by Buckingham, 'America,' i. 155.
- 1843 "THE HUSKING."—'Lowell Offering,' iv. 63-68.
- 1846       The sweetest girl of all I know  
              Is charming Fanny Hall,  
              The wildest at a *husking*,  
              The gayest at a ball.  
                                    *Knickerbocker Mag.*, xxviii. 383 (Nov.).
- 1847 I must pass on to the antagonisms of the *corn-husking*. When the crop was drawn in, the ears were heaped into a long pile or rick, a night fixed on, and the neighbors notified, rather than invited, for it was an affair of mutual assistance. As they assembled at nightfall, the green glass quart whisky bottle, stopped with a cob, was handed to every one, man and boy, as they arrived, to take a drink. [Then follows an animated description of the choice of sides, and of the rivalry, the tricks employed, &c.]—Dr. Drake, 'Pioneer Life in Kentucky,' pp. 54-56 (Cincinnati, 1870).
- 1850 The master of the village school....a *husking-ballad* sung.—J. G. Whittier, 'The Huskers,' p. 13. (N.E.D.)
- 1851 He talked of a turkey-hunt, a *husking-bee*, thanksgiving ball, racing, and a variety of things.—Sylvester Judd, 'Margaret,' p. 48 (Bartlett).

**Husky.** Rough and sturdy.

- 1910 I'll tell you what it boils down to. Ever since the settlement of this country began it has been understood and recognized that the man who breaks the law is going to be jailed. It don't matter if he is as spry as a gopher nor as *husky* as a buffalo.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 21.

**Hustle, hustler, hustling.** A hustler is a vigorous, pushing fellow, not vexed by scruples of conscience.

- 1890 They say he is a *hustler*. It means a person in a condition of nervous hurry, and they are all *hustlers* [in New York].—*Con. Pall Mall Gazette*, March 5. (N.E.D.)
- 1896 It is more like the *hustling* U.S. dailies than the other Mexican dailies.—*Boston Journal*, Jan. 4. (N.E.D.)
- 1909 Socialistic drama must *hustle*, especially if it is to make Socialist votes for Debs's next campaign.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 4,

## I

**I swan, I swow, I snore.** Euphemistic expressions for "I swear," invented by the youth of New England.

1802 *I snore* is less flagitious than *I swear*; and farther, when you hear a Yanke, with his eyes open, aver that he *snore*s, it may serve to give you an idea of our invention, wit, and humour.—'The Port Folio,' ii. 268n. (Phila.).

1823 "*I swan* it is," included in a list of profane affirmations.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, May 20.

1824 Then there was the Jurymen too,  
As much as a dozen or more;  
'T would scared to death me and you  
To be boxed up in that way, *I snore*.

*Woodstock (Vt.) Register*, March 23.

1839 We han't had no weddin, nor funeral, nor quiltn, nor nothin else. *I snum*, 'taint the thing for me.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, iv. 357.

1839 "Capt. Center, didn't I tell you Van Buren was not the man?" "Yes you did, *I swannee*."—*Salem Advertiser*, Sept. 18, p. 3/2.

1842 *I swan*! I'm as lonesome as a catamount.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 144.

1847 *I swow to man*, I thought he'd strike the boss —'The Great Kalamazoo Hunt,' p. 44 (Phila.).

1853 *I swow* I'll marry you jest as soon as you set foot in Californy.—'Life Scenes,' p. 59.

1853 Wall, *I swow*! you a conductor of other folks.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Sept. 10.

1853 Want to know! wall, *I swan* yeou air hitched queer.—*Id.*, Sept 3. (For fuller citation see WANT TO KNOW.)

1854 Sech a smell of hogs and fat, brissels and hot water, *I swan tu pucker* I never did calc'late on before.—N.Y. *Spirit of the Times*, n.d.

1856 *I swan teu man*, I thought I never should get home.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 2.

1857 *I swow* I rayther kalkerlate he'd swallowed a buzzard.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 457 (Nov.).

1858 *I swow*, Bill, I can't exactly come at the sense of your observation.—*Id.*, li. 7 (Jan.).

1862 But they du preach, *I swan to man*, its puf'kly indescrib'le.—'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 1.

1878 I'm nigh about skeered to death, parson; *I swan to man* I be.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Cal Culver and the Devil,' *Harper's Mag.*, lvii. 583.

**I tell you.** A Yankee mode of emphasizing a statement.

1833 She flew round among the folks mighty peart, *I tell you*.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 88 (Phila.).

1833 The old gentleman is coming along pretty peart, *I tell you*.—*Id.*, p. 37.

1851 I peartened up then, and gin him as good as he sent, mind, *I tell you*.—'Widow Rugby's Husband,' p. 78,

**I tell you—contd.**

1857 'Fraid I mussed her hair slightly,—it was done up mighty nice, *I tell you*.—*S.F. Call*, Feb. 19: from *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

1858 But the Deacon swore (as Deacons do,  
With an "I dew vum," or an "*I tell yeou*,")  
He would build one shay to beat the taown, &c.  
O. W. Holmes, 'The One-Hoss-Shay.'

1862 "I tell ye wut, this war's a goin' to cost"—  
"An' *I tell you* it wun't be money lost."  
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 2.

\*.\* The right accentuation of the phrase is shown in the last two examples.

**I van, I vum, I vow.** Modified oaths, invented (like "I swan") by the youth of New England. See 1852.

1785 Ye yanking lads of our town, ye  
Are brave fellows all, *I vovne*,  
See our great banging freedom pole,  
It is a gent one, 'tis by jole.  
And when we look on 'pon this tree,  
We all must dreadful mindful be  
That we must fight for liberty,  
And *vum* we'll 'fend it, if we die.

*Mass Spy*, Oct. 13.

1790 In one village you will hear the phrase "*I snore*,"—in another, "*I swougar*,"—and in another, "*I van you*, I wunt do it."—*Id.*, Dec. 30.

1802 He *vows*, in Yankee phrase.—*Sportsman*, n.d.

1809 Next Nelly sat down on her stool,  
And streamed it from the cow;  
At milking she was not a fool,—  
She froth'd the milk,—*I vow*.

*Mass. Spy*, July 5.

1824 They covered the types with paper,  
Then pulled,—*I van*, 'twas a squeezer.

*Woodstock (Vt.) Observer*, Feb. 24: from *The N.H. Patriot*.

1839 "Is it possible this is you?" "I rather guess it is," says I, "but *I vum* I cant contrive who *you* be."—'Major Jack on board a Whaler,' *Havana (N.Y.) Republican*, Aug. 21.

1849 *I vow* my holl sheer o' the spiles wouldn't come nigh a V spot.—'Biglow Papers,' No. 8.

1852 Would my father and mother [in Vermont] allow any of their children to say "Darn it"? were they ever allowed to say "*I vow*"? No.—Brigham Young, Aug. 15: 'Journal of Discourses,' vi. 290.

1854 *I veow*! they kept snakin' an' snakin' [the hogs] in an' up through the scuttle, jist in a continual stream.—*N.Y. Spirit of the Times*, n.d.

a.1854 "*I vum*" is just the same in spirit as "*I vow*"; and a "diabolical falsehood" is perfectly synonymous with a "devilish lie."—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 265,

1858 See I TELL YOU,



**I want.** (Peculiar use.)

- 1833 *I want* you should give me a letter of recommend to Philadelphia, as I ruther guess I shall go back that way.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 80.
- 1839 *I want* you should observe, sir, that a gentleman, &c.—C. F. Briggs, 'Harry Franco,' i. 106.
- 1837 *I want* the country should know who they are.—John Q. Adams, House of Repr., Feb. 9 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 263, App.
- 1857 *I want* the world should see that.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 18 (July).
- 1891 *I want* you should happen down this road in twenty minutes.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Huckleberries,' p. 180 (Boston).

**Ice cream.** It is not certain that the earliest confections going under this name were the same with the delicious ones now made. Mrs. Hamilton (1855) seems to have been mistaken in her claim. See 1744.

- 1688 All such Fruits, *Iced Creams*, &c.....as the Season afforded.—*London Gazette*, No. 2383. (N.E.D.)
- 1744 Among the rarities of which [the dessert] was compos'd was some fine *ice cream*, which, with the strawberries and milk, eat [ate] most deliciously.—'Journal of Wm. Black,' May 19 : *Penna. Mag. of Hist. and Biog.*, ii. 126. [This entertainment was given by Governor Thomas Bladen at Annapolis, Md. The compiler is indebted for the citation to Mr. Albert Matthews.]
- 1769 "To make *Ice-Cream*."—Receipt in Mrs. Raffald's 'English Housekeeper' (1788), p. 249. (N.E.D.)
- 1789 The *ice-creams* melt with the room's excessive heat.—Mrs. Piozzi, 'Journey in France,' i. 181. (N.E.D.)
- 1796 Samuel Richardet announces that "Tea, Coffee, Soupes, Jellies, *Ice Creams*, &c.," will be supplied by him at the City Tavern, Philadelphia.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, April 21.
- 1800 Bosse, French cook, at the New Caveau Hotel, Phila., supplies "*Ice Cream* and other refreshments."—*The Aurora*, March 7.
- 1806 One of the polls was held in the City of New York, at a place where *ice-cream* was sold.—*The Balance*, May 13, p. 146.
- 1819 They seemed to enjoy the appearance which this caricature of a man made, holding a glass of *ice cream* in one hand, and with the other occasionally arranging his bushy hair.—*St. Louis Enquirer*, Sept. 15.
- 1822 [He had] no bills to exchange, except a ragged note, which he intended to barter for an *ice-cream*, a glass of punch, and a cigar.—*Boston Patriot*, Sept. 7.
- 1822                   There's calv's foot jelly sister Bet  
                          Can make as well as Peter ;  
                          And *Ice cream* I will never get  
                          For any living creature.  
                          *Pennsylvania Intelligencer*, Dec. 3 : from *The Microscope*.

**Ice cream—contd.**

- 1829 [Such was the confusion at the President's levee] that wine and *ice cream* could not be brought out to the ladies, and tubs of punch were taken from the lower story into the garden, to lead off the crowd from the rooms.—*Mass. Spy*, April 8: from *The Village Record*.
- 1837 They halted at a confectioner's, and called for *ice-creams*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, ix. 262 (March).
- 1844 One who cared as little about the picturesque as a shovel-nosed shark for an *ice cream*.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 110.
- 1853 *Happy Folks*. A child with a rattle, two lovers walking by moonlight, a gent imbibing a sherry cobbler, a boy sucking new cider through a straw, and two country misses over *ice-cream*.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Feb. 22.
- 1855 Mrs. Alexander Hamilton once told a friend that she was the first person in the U.S. for whom *ice cream* was made [ascribing the introduction of it to a cook from Paris].—*Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, Kas., June 2.

**Ice-gorge.** An accumulation of ice in a river.

- 1862 [League] Island is below the bend in the Delaware, and hence mainly out of danger from *ice gorges*.—Mr. James W. Grimes of Iowa, U.S. Senate, June 24: *Cong. Globe*, p. 2896/1.
- 1884 An *ice-gorge* forming in the river....has smashed.... whole fleets of them.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 514/2. (N.E.D.)

**Ice-piece.** A guard against ice.

- 1830 A lady on each arm answers precisely the same purpose as the "*ice pieces*" on the bows of a Greenland whaler.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 274.

**Idea.** A drink. Obsolete.

- 1836 "Let's take an *ideer*." So we walked to the bar, took a nip, and let the matter drop.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 129.

**Illinois nut.** See quotation.

- 1817 The pecan, or *Illinois nut*, is a kind of walnut, but very different from all other species, both in the form and texture of its shell, which is so thin as to be cracked between the teeth.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 261.

**Illuminati.** A term applied to the Jacobins, and to the Jeffersonians; and, by the latter, to the Princeton College people, and to the opponents of Freemasonry.

- 1798 The doctrines of the *Illuminati*, and principles of Jacobinism.—Geo. Washington, 'Writings' (1893), xiv. 119. (N.E.D.)
- 1798 The *Illuminati* esteem all ecclesiastical establishments profane, irreligious, and tyrannical....These *Illuminated* have had their founder, their Weishaupt, &c.—*Mass. Mercury*, Nov. 30.
- 1800 The Scare-crow, called the *Illuminati*, was conjured up.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Feb. 20.

**Illuminati—contd.**

- 1800 The Episcopal clergy, in union with the *Illuminati* of New England, exhibit Aaron and Corah cheek by jowl, in confederacy to root out Christianity.—*Id.*, Feb. 22.
- 1800 On good Friday, 1799, the Connecticut *illuminati* were preaching up politics from the pulpit.—*Id.*, April 10.
- 1800 Tomorrow we shall offer some hints on the *Illuminati* views in New-Jersey, at the head of which is President Smith, of Princeton College.—*Id.*, April 17.
- 1800 The hypocrisy and anti-christian spirit which has long characterized the New-England *Illuminati*.—*Id.*, June 7.
- 1800 These are the views of a New-England *Illuminatus* [Dr. Morse].—*Id.*, Sept. 12.
- 1800 See POPE DWIGHT.—*Id.*, Sept. 12.
- Illy.** Mr. Lowell, in apologizing for this adverb, admits it to be contrary to good usage. The N.E.D. furnishes examples 1549, 1594, 1681, &c. It is not uncommon in the U.S.
- 1549 In Norfolk [they] are as *illy* handled as may be.—Duke of Somerset to Sir T. Hoby, Aug. 24. (N.E.D.)
- 1785 Beauty is jealous, and *illy* bears the presence of a rival.—Tho. Jefferson's 'Writings' (1894), iv. 100.
- 1788 [They] begged for money, which was granted to them, though they *illy* deserved it.—*Mass. Spy*, July 24.
- 1796 The wise editor of the New York Minerva *illy* bears to have his ignorance exposed.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Jan. 4.
- 1797 Should the reply be, we have used [France] *illy*, and made a British treaty, &c.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., May 2.
- 1800 General Pinckney has manifested a temper *illy* suited to the exalted station for which he is a candidate.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Sept. 11.
- 1800 Under the present circumstance, he thought the gentleman calculated *illy*.—*Id.*, Dec. 31.
- 1802 Women, who were formed of the finer clay, are but *illy* qualified for the tumultuous scenes of life.—*The Balance*, Hudson, N.Y., Jan. 19, p. 17.
- 1803 The road is in many places hilly and rocky, in others very circuitous, and *illy* accommodated for the ease or despatch of a traveller.—*Mass. Spy*, March 23.
- 1807 [The office of supreme judge of the state of New York is] *illy* rewarded.—*The Balance*, Oct. 27, p. 341.
- 1808 This *illy* accords with your journey to the westward in May.—Tho. Jefferson to Dr. Wistar, March 20.
- 1821 Mr. Sully, I fear, will consider the trouble of his journey, and the employment of his fine pencil, *illy* bestowed on an Ottamy of 78.—Thomas Jefferson to Jared Mansfield, Feb. 13. ["Otamy" occurs in Gay's 'Beggars' Opera.']
- 1821 Nothing could more *illy* correspond with the ideas we had framed.—H. R. Schoolcraft, 'Tour in Missouri,' p. 34 (Lond.).
- 1822 The drudgery of a compting-room *illy* agreed with his ardent imagination.... He concluded A.'s turn of mind was *illy* calculated for the acquirement of property.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 2: from *The New-Hampshire Sentinel*.

**Illy—contd.**

- 1824 *Qui capit ille facit*: which by interpretation signifieth, He doth *illy* face it, who skulketh behind a cape.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, Jan. 5.
- 1835 I am *illy* prepared to address this most enlightened people.—‘Col. Crockett’s Tour,’ p. 19 (Phila.).
- 1840 Such a motive would comport *illy* with the habits and dispositions of the people.—Mr. Nathan F. Dixon in the U.S. Senate, May 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 391.
- 1850 Mr. Hammond of Md. said the post office building in Baltimore was so *illy* constructed as not to protect more than fifty persons from rain or other storms.—House of R., Aug. 22: *id.*, p. 1627.
- 1852 When the spirit of persecution manifests itself in the flippancy of rhetoric for female insult and desecration, it is time that I forbear to hold my peace, lest the thundering anathemas of nations born and unborn should rest upon my head, when the marrow of my bones shall be *illy* prepared to sustain the threatened blow.—Speech of Brigham Young: *The Millennial Star*, xiv. 402.
- 1854 I am very *illy* prepared for vocal gymnastics today.—Mr. C. C. Clay of Ala., U.S. Senate, July 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1704.
- 1861 New Hampshire paid nothing, being very sparsely settled, very poor in soil, and very *illy* able to bear any public burden.—O. J. Victor, ‘Hist. of the Southern Rebellion,’ i. 207.
- 1863 The turbulent and *illy*-informed of the population would do for voters and soldiers.—*Id.*, ii. 63.
- 1863 [The result was] owing to the *illy*-prepared condition of [fort] Sumter’s armament.—*Id.*, ii. 79.
- 1889 The conduct of W. A. toward the appellant is, to say the least, unkind and ungenerous. Such faithlessness *illy* accords with the sentiments of honor, justice, and charity, as entertained by the broad-breasted man of sin, however it may be regarded by pious moralists and religious zealots.—Opinion of W. W. Thayer, C.J., in *Adams v. Adams*, 17th Oregon Reports, p. 253.
- 1904 I dropped one of my gauntlets, a scarce article at that time, and one which I could *illy* afford to lose.—Claiborne, ‘Old Virginia,’ p. 268.

**Immigrant, immigrate, &c.**

- 1809 *Immigrant* is perhaps the only word, of which the circumstances of the U.S. has [have] in any way demanded the addition to the English language.—Kendall, ‘Travels,’ ii. 252. (N.E.D.)
- 1821 *Immigrate* (of which examples occur in 1623, 1651, N.E.D.) is defended as an Americanism by Dr. Dwight.—‘Travels,’ iv. 285.

**Improve.** To use, to employ. The canting phrase, "to improve the occasion," is still used in some religious circles.

- 1677 Other places adjoining were soon after seized, and *improved* for Trading and Fishing.—W. Hubbard, 'Narrative' (1865), ii. 71. (N.E.D.)
- 1702 Her tongue was *improved* by a demon, to express things unknown to herself.—Cotton Mather, 'Magnalia,' Book VI. (Bartlett).
- 1768 The farm which said Moore now *improves*.—Advt., *Boston-Gazette*, Feb. 1.
- 1768 A good large convenient Double House, which has been *improved* and well-accustomed as a Tavern.—*Id.*, May 23.
- 1770 The Store lately *improved* by Mr. Nathaniel Loring, opposite the East End of Faneuil Hall.—*Id.*, June 11.
- 1773 [Ebenezer Oliver sells Garden Seeds] at his Shop (formerly *improved* by his late Mother Mrs. Bethiah Oliver deceased).—*Id.*, Feb. 22.
- 1774 I paid the tax for a wood lot which I never *improved*.—*Newport Mercury*, May 2.
- 1775 Some of our School lads. . . . *improved* the coast from Sherburn's Hill down to School Street. . . . Their fathers before 'em had *improved* it as a coast from time immemorial.—Letter in *Proceedings* of the Mass. Historical Society, 1865, p. 398. (N.E.D.)
- 1783 Our meeting-house has been *improved* as a hospital by the English, and afterwards by the French army.—Petition to the House of Assembly, Rhode Island, June (Bartlett).
- 1790 Dr. Franklin's remarks on the use of the word *improve* are very just. In Newengland it is made to signify *employ, use, occupy*. Thus our people say, a building has been *improved* as a store; a certain farm is *improved* by such a person; and a man has been *improved* as a physician.—Noah Webster in the *American Mercury: Mass. Spy*, Aug. 19.
- 1797 [Governor Samuel Adams appointed Thursday, May 4,] to be observed and *improved* throughout this commonwealth, for the purpose of public fasting and prayer.—*Mass. Spy*, April 19.
- 1801 —All conveniently situated for a Public House, for which it has been *improved* for some years past.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 28.
- 1802 The elegance of the house [the new church at Danbury] evinced to all present that the members gratefully received and religiously *improved* the grant of a lottery which enabled them to build it, and dedicate it to the worship of Almighty God.—'The Port Folio,' ii. 414 (Phila.).
- 1821 Dr. Dwight quotes Addison, Watts, and Doddridge: adding that "Englishmen have always used the word in the very same sense"—which is an over-bold statement.—'Travels,' iv. 287.

**Improve—contd.**

1829 Passages like this sometimes occur: "The house, while *improved* by him, deteriorated greatly in value." This is something like Paddy's "advancing backward." If people would recollect that to *improve* is to make better, and that the occupancy of a building does not generally *improve* it, the misuse of this word would become less common.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 28.

1855 Go and *improve* that farm, though I do not deed it to you.—Brigham Young, June 3: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 304.

**Improvements.** Clearings, plantings, and buildings.

1684 "A very good *improvement* for a mill."—Speech of the Attorney-General in the Lady Ivy's case, State Trials: quoted by Mr. Lowell in his Introduction to the 'Biglow Papers.'

1783 The *improvements* of John Lower, lately deceased, offered for sale by his executor.—*Maryland Journal*, Jan. 28.

1784 Will be let, a small Peninsula, or Neck, of Land.... There are *improvements* on the place.—Advt. by Geo. Washington, *id.*, July 20.

1786 The *improvements* are, three Negro-quarters and two tobacco-houses.—Advt., *id.*, March 10.

1817 Land with some *improvements* (land cleared) is worth [in Ohio] from twenty to thirty dollars per acre.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 74 (Phila.).

1817 Fifty dollars per acre for *improved land* is spoken of familiarly; I have been asked thirty for a large tract, without *improvements*, on the great Miami.—*Id.*, p. 93.

1817 They begin to talk already of selling their "*improvements*," and getting still further back.—*Id.*, p. 138.

1817 An elegant *improvement* is a cabin of rude logs, and a few acres with the trees cut down to the height of three feet, and surrounded with a worm fence or zigzag railing.—*Id.*, p. 152.

1817 Opportunities are never wanting to purchase from the Backwoodsman what he calls his *improvements*.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 291.

1829 About this period I began to learn that in America the word *improvement*, which in England means making things better, signifies in that country an augmentation in the number of houses and people, and, above all, in the amount of the acres of cleared land.—Basil Hall, 'Travels in N. America,' i. 153.

1878 [The land] was common, an' we owned jist the *improvements*.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 43.

**Indeedy.** A variant of Indeed.

1856 Is thy eyes opened? Yes, *indeedy*, says I.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 620 (Dec.).

**Indian corn.** Maize ; the "mealies" of South Africa.

- a.1621 Better grain cannot be then the *Indian corn*.—Capt. Smith, 'New Eng. Trials,' 261. (N.E.D.)
- 1630 Though we have no beef and mutton,....our *Indian corn* answers for all.—Winthrop, 'Letters' (1825), i. 379. (N.E.D.)
- a1683 Their diet is maize, or *Indian corn*,....sometimes beaten and boiled in water.—W. Penn, quoted in Watson's 'Hist. Tales of N.Y.' 1832, p. 49.
- 1705 The year 1608 was the first Year in which they gathered *Indian Corn* of their own planting.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' p. 18 (Lond.).
- 1774 See conversation between George III. and Tho. Hutchinson, s.v. CORN.
- 1788 The *Indian corn*, called Maize, ground small, is preferred to bread by many of those who live in [South Carolina].—'Am. Museum,' iii. 333.

**Indian file.** Single file.

- 1791 [They] ranged themselves in regular *Indian file*, the veteran in the van, and the younger in the rear.—W. Bartram, 'Carolina,' p. 440. (N.E.D.)
- 1811 In the formation of my troops, I used a single rank, or what is called *Indian file*.—Report of Gov. W. H. Harrison to the Sec. of State, Nov. 18: *Mass. Spy*, July 28.
- 1817 Some gigantic, tawny sachem, who is followed in *Indian file* by the younger men.—*Analectic Mag.*, x. 495 (Dec.).
- 1826 They walk forward in *Indian file*, to renew their "set."—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 25.
- 1830 [They] marched us over gold pits, logs, and brushes, in a style called *Indian file*.—*Mass. Spy*, July 28: from *The N.Y. Commercial Advertiser*
- 1833 The Tunkers came out from Germany in 1709....When they were numerous at Ephrata, they used to make visits of love to those in Germantown, walking one after the other in *Indian file* to the number of forty to fifty persons.—Watson, 'Historic Tales of Philadelphia,' pp. 53-54.

**Indian sugar.** See quotation.

- 1833 *Indian sugar*, as that made from the maple-tree is called at the West.—C. F. Hoffmann, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 225 (Lond., 1835).

**Indian summer.** That season of genial weather which usually comes after the first autumnal frosts: corresponding to the "latter spring," or "All-hallown summer" of '1 K. Henry IV.,' I. ii. Mr. Albert Matthews, in his valuable monograph, says that the term "Indian summer" is not found in Webster (1806), nor in Webster (1828), nor in Pickering's 'Vocabulary' (1817).

- 1794 While at Le Boeuf, a few miles from the present city of Erie, Pa., Major Ebenezer Denny made this entry in his Journal, Oct. 13, "Pleasant weather. The *Indian summer* here. Frosty nights." (Mr. Matthews.)



**Indian summer—contd.**

- 1798 Most people supposed the *Indian summer* was approaching (a week or fortnight of warm weather, which generally takes place about the middle of January).—Dr. Mason F. Cogswell, June 7, writing from Hartford, Ct. (The same.)
- 1817 About the beginning or middle of October, *Indian summer* commences, and is immediately known by the change which takes place in the atmosphere, as it now becomes hazy, or what they term smoky.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 259. (The same.)
- 1823 The *Indian Summer*....is caused by millions of acres, for thousands of miles round, being in a wide-spreading, flaming, smoking fire....Why called Indian? Because these fires seem to have originated with the native tribes. [An elaborate description follows, characterized by some exaggeration. A fire of the magnitude supposed would sweep all the U.S., with Mexico and the habitable fraction of Canada.]—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 233.
- 1825 This season is called the *Indian summer*, and the people pretend to ascribe it to the Indian custom of burning the long grass of the immense Prairies in the west.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 185 (Lond.).
- 1829 The sun was sinking behind the trees into the misty veil of *Indian summer*.—T. Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 47.
- 1833 The *Indian summer* heat [has been] almost sultry.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 38.
- 1840 It was a beautiful afternoon, in that most delightful of all seasons, the "*Indian Summer*."—'Lowell Offering,' i. 51.
- 1849 The sound of the axe will be heard in every direction, and the crash of falling trees will attest the energy with which it is wielded; and the crackling flame and curling smoke make *Indian summer* for the sturdy laborer within his clearing. There will be "rollings" every Thursday, and "raisings" every Saturday.—Mr. Sawyer of Ohio in the House of Repr., Jan. 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 80, App.
- 1853 Stanzas on the *Indian Summer*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xvii. 277-8.

\*.\* The compiler cannot close this note, which might have been lengthened tenfold by trespassing on Mr. Matthews's collection, without mentioning James R. Lowell's 'Indian-Summer Reverie,' one of the most beautiful pieces of word-painting in the language.

**Indignation meeting.** See quotations.

- 1809 Those *indignation meetings*....where men meet together to rail at public abuses.—W. Irving, 'History of N.Y.,' no ref. (Bartlett.)
- 1832 When it was known that the Senate had non-concurred in the appointment of Mr. Van Buren [as minister to England], his friends held a meeting for the purpose of making public their indignation at this act....Similar meetings were held in various towns and villages....The opposition gave the name of "*indignation meetings*," to these assemblies.—J. D. Hammond, 'Hist. Pol. Parties,' ii. 411 (1842).

**Indignation meeting—contd.**

- 1841 Now let [Mr. Giddings] put that down in his book, and tell it at his "*indignation meetings*" when he goes home.—Mr. Black of Georgia, House of Repr., Feb. 9: *Cong. Globe*, p. 165, App. (See also p. 171.)
- 1909 Part of the reason, and perhaps the main part, for the decline of the *indignation meeting* is to be found in the universal reach of the newspaper. Everybody reads the newspaper, and the newspaper covers all the ground.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Nov. 29.

**Indiscipline.** Lack of discipline.

- 1783 To venture upon a piece of *indiscipline*, in order to secure a tolerable peace.—John Adams, 'Works,' (1854), ix. 517. (N.E.D.)
- 1792 My former letters have mentioned the *indiscipline* of the French armies.—Gouverneur Morris in Sparks's 'Life and Writings' (1832), ii. 175. (N.E.D.)
- 1812 Duke of Wellington. (N.E.D.)

**Inexpressibles, unmentionables, &c.** A euphemism for trousers, used ludicrously, and traced to 'Peter Pindar,' 1790: N.E.D.

- 1801 The size of a Turk's *inexpressibles* is very convenient, and much admired by the fair sex.—'The Port Folio,' i. 340 (Phila.).
- 1824 We thought about those "*inexpressibles*" (principally worn by our wives) having been repaired.—*The Microscope*, Albany, May 29.
- 1830 The man in "Varmount," who, disdaining all machinery, took himself up by the waist bands of his *unmentionables*.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 6: from the *N. Y. Constellation*.
- 1830 Underneath this frock [worn by Chinese women in Canton] was that garment that has as good a claim to be called "*inexpressible*" or "*unmentionable*" as the corresponding one belonging to our sex.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 106.
- 1833 My *unmentionables* were somewhat endamaged.—*Am. Monthly Mag.*, i. 394 (Aug.).
- 1836 The managers have resolved to insist upon their wearing stockings and *unmentionables*.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, April 5.
- 1836 The apothecary then . . . looped up the posterior crack in the *unmentionables* with a surgeon's needle.—*Id.*, Nov. 2.
- 1837 How could he see about procuring himself a pair of *unwhisperables*?—*Knicker. Mag.*, ix. 288 (March).
- 1842 The child was wrapped in white linen, and then crammed into a bag made of the leg of a pair of *inexpressibles*.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, April 20.
- 1842 The larceny of two vests and two pair of *inexpressibles*.—*Id.*, April 25.
- 1842 She ran away, taking with her sundry frocks, capes, caps, handkerchiefs, petticoats, *unmentionables*, &c.—*Id.*, May 4.
- 1848 Mr. B. dressed himself in a new bright blue coat, and a pair of large and showy *unwhisperables*.—Burton's 'Waggeries,' p. 75 (Phila.).

**Infare.** A wedding reception. The word is not uncommon in the South. It is of Scottish origin. See N.E.D.

**Infract.** To infringe on, to break.

1798 I think every nation has a right to establish that form of Government under which it conceives it shall live most happy: provided it *infracts* no right, or is not dangerous to others.—Geo. Washington, 'Writ.' (1893), xiv. 127. (N.E.D.)

1838 Mr. Bynum hoped he was the last man in that House, or out of it, that would knowingly *infract* any rule of that House.—House of Repr., Jan. 24: *Cong. Globe*, p. 77, App.

1854 This bill will not only *infract* the rights and degrade the dignity of the land States but, &c.—Mr. C. C. Clay of Alabama, U.S. Senate, July 12: *id.*, p. 1705.

1859 I deny the right of any one to *infract* or nullify any law of the United States.—S. S. Cox, 'Eight Years in Congress,' p. 96 (1865).

**Injunet.** To enjoin; to grant or procure an injunction.

1880 Stoddards have successfully *injuncted* Scribners from taking and using subscription lists procured by [them].—*Christian Advocate*, N.Y., March 11.

1887 Foraker proposed to "*injunct*" the return of the rebel flags.—*Ohio State Journal*, Columbus, Sept. 1. (N.E.D.)

**Ink-jerker, Ink-slinger.** A scribbler, especially a newspaper writer.

1869 And now it was hinted that this rattle-brained scribbler, this miserable *ink-jerker*, was about to become a candidate for Congress from the Territory of Nevada!—J. Ross Browne, 'Apache Country,' p. 299 (N.Y.).

1887 Every one on the Paris press seems ready....to fight any other *ink-slinger* on the slightest provocation.—W. Douglas, 'Duelling Days,' p. 132. (N.E.D.)

**Inn-holder.** An innkeeper. The word is traced back to 1464. It is probably obsolete even in the U.S.

1769 Notice of the death of "Capt. Christopher Turner, a noted *Innholder*, very remarkable for keeping an excellent House of Entertainment, under the strictest Regularity and good Order."—*Boston Post-boy*, Sept. 11.

1771 A Vendue at the house of Capt. David Goodridge, *Innholder* in Fitchburg.—*Boston-Gazette*, Oct. 7.

1772 —At the house of Mr. Martin Kellog, *Inholder* in Amherst.—*Mass. Spy*, June 11.

1772 Goods advertised as "Stolen out of the house of Mr. Perrey, *innholder*."—*Id.*, Nov. 19.

1775 I have with pleasure attended to the dry jokes you used to crack for the entertainment of your guests, when an *Innholder*.—*Boston-Gazette*, Jan. 9.

1789 Lieut. John. Stowers is described as "*Innholder* in Worcester."—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 1.

1798 Any person licensed as an *Innholder*, Tavernkeeper, Victualler, &c.—'Act of Assembly,' Mass., June 27,

**Inn-holder—contd.**

- 1805 Dialogue between an *innholder* and a hostler.—*The Balance*, Nov. 12, p. 361.
- 1810 Deacon Nathan Heard, *Innholder* in Worcester.—*Mass. Spy*, June 13.
- 1813 The house of Morris Marcey, *innholder* in Honest-town, so-called, in the South-East corner Sturbridge.—*Id.*, June 23.

**Inquiry.** This word is very frequently pronounced, even by persons in official positions, as though it were a dactyl.

- 1833 [He] had the misfortune to say *in'quiry*, deciss'ive, adver'tiss, and diffic'ult.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 44.
- 1883 I heard in America "ôpponent" and "in'quiry," and very odd they sounded.—E. A. Freeman, 'Impressions of the U.S.,' p. 78.

\*.\* See also Appendix XXV.

**Inside of.** In less time than ; within.

- 1877 They would pollute the society of Heaven *inside of* twenty-four hours, if they went there.—*Boston Journal*, April 27 (Bartlett).
- 1887 Both animals had been killed *inside of* five minutes.—*Hartford Courant*, Jan. 13 (Farmer).

**Institution.** An established custom. The word was much used during the long controversy about slavery, which was called the "peculiar institution" of the South. And it is frequently used jocosely : see 1854, 1867.

- 1788 Preaching is a good *institution*, and is advancing rapidly towards perfection.—*Am. Museum*, iii. 171 (March).
- 1836 This question of domestic slavery is the weak point in our *institutions*.—Mr. James Buchanan in the U.S. Senate, March 10 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 222.
- 1837 Mr. Pickens meant only to say that the tendency of the *institutions* at the north was to organize capital, and to make labor tributary to it.—House of Repr., Oct. 11 : *id.*, p. 217, App.
- 1838 Those who advocate the surpassing excellence of the *slave institutions* of the south have taken a more daring stand....It is the glory of our Northern *institutions* that they give to every man, poor and rich, high and low, the same fair play.—Mr. Naylor in Congress : *The Jeffersonian*, Albany, June 2, p. 125.
- [1838 Lynch law, Bowie knives, and gouging, are taking root among us as established *institutes* of society.—*Id.*, Sept. 1, p. 223.]
- 1839 Murder [in Ireland] has become an *institution*.—*The Times*, Feb. 18. (N.E.D.)
- 1841 I was not aware, Mr. Speaker, that our rules protected from discussion any *institution* whatever.—Mr. Giddings of Ohio, House of Repr., Feb. 9 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 348, App.

**Institution—contd.**

- 1842 I have deplored these things, because I thought their tendency was to disparage the House, as an *institution*, in the estimation and judgment of the country.—Mr. Allen of Ohio in the Senate, June 10 : *id.*, p. 610.
- 1842 I have heard more about disunion, and the downfall of our *institutions*, since I have been on this floor, than during the whole of my life before.—Mr. Mason of Maryland, House of Repr., July 7 : *id.*, p. 563, Appendix.
- 1844 The States on the Mississippi were connected with, and rested on, a naval power ; the Southern States on their *institutions*,—*institutions* which he hoped no fanatical spirit would ever have power to disturb,—and the Eastern States on their commerce.—Mr. James Buchanan in the Senate, March 12 : *id.*, p. 372.
- 1845 The *institution* of slavery is secured to certain sections of the confederacy by the federal constitution.—Mr. Weller of Ohio, House of R., Jan. 9 : *id.*, p. 83, App.
- 1848 My position is this : that slavery is an *institution* which depends solely upon the municipal law of the place where it exists.—Mr. Alex. H. Stephens of Georgia, House of R. Aug. 7 : *id.*, p. 1106, App.
- 1848 Ez to the slaves, there's no confusion  
In my idees consarnin' them.—  
I think they air an *Institution*,  
A sort of—yes, jest so,—ahem.  
‘Biglow Papers,’ No. 7.
- 1849 There is a *domestic institution* in the South, which in some sort insulates us from all mankind. The civilized world is against us. I know it ; I comprehend it ; I feel it.—Mr. Hilliard of Alabama, House of R., Feb. 10 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 105, App.
- 1854 Show us a lady's bonnet, and we'll tell you what sort of an *institution* she is.—*Olympia* (W.T.) *Pioneer*, April 29.
- 1854 Among all our American *institutions*, there is none better befitting a great and growing republic than the Strawberry.—*Knick. Mag.*, xliv. 105 (July).
- 1854 When Miss Ketura escapes you “on the wing,” she won't make you a useful *institution*, no way you can fix it.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Dec. 2.
- 1854 I last night visited my girl. We had not been long seated alone, when she sighed out, “Mr. Spriggs, don't you think marriage is an *institution* ?” “It is a great *institution* indeed,” said I.—*Id.*, Dec. 9.
- 1854 The old sea-captain insisted on Bolus's setting his negroes free, and taking \$5,000 a piece for the loss. Bolus's love for the “*peculiar institution*” wouldn't stand it.—Baldwin, ‘*Flush Times*,’ p. 10.
- 1854 The bar of every country is in some sort a representation of the character of the people of which it is so important an *institution*.—*Id.*, p. 241.
- 1855 Yankees do have a weakness for patent medicine. It is one of their *peculiar institutions*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xx. 278.

**Institution—contd.**

- 1857 Chain-Gang. There was an addition of two made to this useful "*institution*" yesterday.—*San Francisco Call*, Jan. 27.
- 1857 The Bible is an excellent *institution*.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Nov. 7.
- 1857 I never see an old man, seated in his great armchair, smoking his pipe, without regarding that same pipe as an *institution* which I would hardly be willing to banish entirely from the world.—S. H. Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 67.
- 1858 —Certain steamboat lines and other *institutions*.—*Olympia Pioneer*, July 23.
- 1860 He had for the last few years used a boy and dog as fencing material; he found it "a good *institution*."—*Knick. Mag.*, lv. 415 (April).
- 1860 (Dec.) The Slave States desire "to be let alone, and permitted to manage their *domestic institutions* in their own way."—President Buchanan's message.
- 1860 (Dec.) The Republican party holds the same opinion, with regard to your "*peculiar institution*," that is held by every civilized nation on the globe.—Senator Wade's speech: O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' i. 88.
- 1860 (Dec.) Our platform repudiates the idea that we have any right, or harbor any ultimate intention, to invade or interfere with your own *institution* in your own States.—The same: *id.*, i. 88-9.
- 1860 (Dec.) The idea that the *institution* of African slavery would be made the grand basis of a sectional organization of the North to rule the South, never crossed the imaginations [of the founders of the Union].—South Carolina's Address to the Slaveholding States. *Id.*, i. 110.
- 1860 (Dec.) When it is said that the *institution* exists, and that it is very difficult to get rid of it in any satisfactory way, I can understand and appreciate the saying.—Mr. Lincoln's speech at Peoria, Ill.—*Id.*, i. 142.
- 1861 (Jan.) The Republican party holds that African Slavery is a local *institution*, depending upon local laws,—that it cannot exist beyond the limit of the State by virtue of whose laws it is established. The Democratic party holds that African Slavery is a national *institution*, existing everywhere where it is not prohibited.—Mr. Stanton's reply to Mr. Reagan: *id.*, i. 230.
- 1861 I've heard you prate in Exeter Hall  
Of sin and slave-pollution;  
But now I see 'twas blarney all,—  
You love "the *Institution*."  
*Knick. Mag.*, lviii. 169 (Aug.).
- 1863 Those wee little "affidavits," alias gipsey hats, now so much in vogue, are quite a peculiar and saucy-looking *institution*, on both those whom they become and those whom they disfigure.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Feb. 12.

**Institution**—*contd.*

- 1866 [The New England people] built a fence around *the institution* [slavery] as high as Haman's gallows.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 161.
- 1867 Mr. Lincoln caught sight of some axes hanging up. Taking one down, he said: "Gentlemen, you may talk about your 'Raphael Repeaters' and 'eleven-inch Dahlgrens'; but here is an *institution* which I guess I understand better than either of you"—F. B. Carpenter, 'Six Months at the White House,' p. 113.
- 1908 See HETCHEL.

**Instruct, Instruction.** To instruct is to direct a representative how to vote.

- 1828 We have too much respect for the legislature of Kentucky to suppose that they meant to bind the delegation by an *instruction*.—Virginia Administration Address: *Richmond Whig*, Feb. 16, p. 1/2.
- 1841 *Resolved*, That the Hon. Reuel Williams, previous to his election to the Senate of the U.S., having declared and published that it is the duty of the elected to carry into effect the will of his constituents, if he is *instructed* what that will is, or resign his trust, we hereby *instruct* him, &c.—Resolution of the Legislature of the State of Maine: see the *Congressional Globe*, p. 186.
- 1841 *Instruction* is the right of a majority, petition that of a minority, or of a single individual.—Mr. Ingersoll of Pennsylvania, House of Repr., June 9: *id.*, p. 74, App.
- 1862 Mr. Tyler....was in 1836 *instructed out of the Senate*,.... having previously been very strongly sustained by the [Virginia] Legislature.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Jan. 22 (Bartlett).

**Interval, Interval Land.** See quotation 1819; also Mr. Matthews's paper in 'Publ. Col. Soc. Mass.,' vi. 137-151.

- 1653 Thirty acors of uppland and fortie acors of *Entervale land*.—Early Rec. Lancaster (Mass.), 27. (N.E.D.)
- 1683 Every person that has sixty acres granted of *interval land* shall settle two inhabitants upon it.—'History of Northfield,' p. 95. (N.E.D.)
- 1771 The road is three quarters of a mile from the river, and the *interval land* lies between.—John Adams, 'Diary,' June 7. (N.E.D.)
- 1788 A piece of *interval*, on the bank of the Ohio, measured 100 bushels of ears to the acre.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 11.
- 1789 The first bottom or *interval*, upon the creeks, are not (*sic*) equal to those upon the larger rivers.—*Id.*, June 11.
- 1789 [We found this stream] meandering through extensive fine *interval lands*.—*Maryland Gazette*, Oct. 9.
- 1792 In the *intervale land* on Connecticut River, wheat often yields forty bushels to the acre.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 136.



**Interval, Interval Land—contd.**

- 1805 "Two very valuable *intervale Farms*" in Vermont, advertised for sale.—*The Repertory*, Boston, March 29.
- 1816 The bottom or *interval land*, upon the Ohio and great rivers emptying into it, is by far the best.—Letter to the *Mass. Spy*, Jan. 10.
- 1817 Much damage was sustained by the destruction of mill-dams and of crops on the "*intervalles*" in Otsego and Schoharie counties.—*Boston Weekly Messenger*, Aug. 21.
- 1818 [This] is called, in the colonial language of the country, *interval land*.—W. Darby, 'Tour to Detroit,' p. 59 (1819).
- 1819 What flat lands are in New-England called *intervalles*, the Western planters call bottoms, or prairies, and the Southern, natural meadows or savannahs. The *intervalles* between pinetracts and the savannahs are called hammocks.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 110 (Boston, 1824).
- 1819 All the large bottoms or *intervalles* are subject to inundations.—Letter from Ohio, *Boston Weekly Messenger*, July 5.
- 1821 The Governor had been informed that there were very fine meadows, or *intervals*, in this township.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' ii. 98.
- 1821 The word *Interval* is used by me in a sense altogether different from that which it has in an English dictionary. Dr. Belknap spells it *Intervale*, and confesses his want of authority. There is no such word as *Intervale*.—*Id.*, ii. 328. [The formation of these meadows is discussed, pp. 329–331.]
- 1822 "One hundred acres of rich *Interval* and Upland," on the Nashua River, for sale.—*Mass. Spy*, July 31.
- 1825 The rivers of New England rarely fail to overflow the "*intervale*," or low lands through which they run, two or three times a year.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 361.
- 1827 There is much upland, *interval*, and hammock land.—John L. Williams, 'View of West Florida,' p. 6 (Phila.).

**Introduce.** An introduction. Compare COMBINE, INVITE, RECOMMEND, &c.

- 1857 I kind of froze to her right off, and got better very fast, after having had an *introduce*.—*S.F. Call*, Feb. 19: from the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

**Invite.** An invitation.

- 1659 Bishop Cranmer . . . gives him an earnest *invite* to England.—Hamon L'Estrange, 'Alliance of Divine Offices,' p. 326. (N.E.D.)
- 1834 The whole company stared at me as if I had come without an *invite*.—'The Kentuckian in N. York,' i. 29.
- 1843 Taking off his new fur hat, he extracted the "*invite*" from the lining.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 154.
- 1844 [On this] occasion we had a special *invite* to be present.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 263.
- 1850 It was strange that he should come to my birthday party when he had no *invite*, wasn't it?—Cornelius Mathews, 'Moneypenny,' p. 121 (N.Y.).

**Inwardness.** "The true inwardness" is the real character or purpose.

1877 The *true inwardness* of the late Southern policy of the Republican party.—*N.Y. Tribune*, April (Century Dict.).

1887 How can we trust any book to show us the *true inwardness* of a man we never set eyes on?—*Pall Mall Gazette*, July 18. (N.E.D.)

**Iron horse.** The locomotive engine.

1846 The *iron horse* (the steam-car) with the wings of the wind, his nostrils distended with flame, salamander-like vomiting fire and smoke.—Mr. Cathcart of Indiana, House of Repr., Feb. 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 323.

1 18 It remained for practical men to harness the *iron horse* to the car, and to annihilate time and space by the lightning line of news.—Mr. Bowlin of Missouri, the same, March 6: *id.*, p. 354, App.

1852 Why shall your *iron horse* be checked in his career at the great Father of Waters?—Mr. Miller of Mo., the same: *id.*, p. 184, App.

1854 The same progress has transferred our persons and our commerce from the horse and the slow and dull creaking wagon to the *iron horse* of the railroad.—Mr. Elliott of Ky., the same, May 10: *id.*, p. 819, App.

1860 Away the *iron horse* rushes at a tearing gallop....until he pulls up with a jerk on the aforesaid prairie.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Aug. 24, p. 3/1.

1874 I saw the *iron horses* of the steam  
Toss to the morning air their plumes of smoke.  
Longfellow, 'Monte Cassino.' (N.E.D.)

**Iron-weed.** The N. Am. species of *Vernonia*.

1819 (Oct.) Found *iron-weed* all day, and fine extensive peach orchards.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 185 (Lond., 1823).

1823 Rich land [in Missouri] full of *iron-weed*, but not so rank as in Kentucky.—*Id.*, p. 210.

1880 And widely weaves the *Iron-Weed*  
A woof of purple dyes.  
John Hay, 'Pike County Ballads,' p. 97. (N.E.D.)

**Irrigate.** To drink. Slang.

1856 He was invited by the urbane proprietor to *irrigate*.—G. H. Derby, 'Phoenixiana,' p. 104.

α.1880. See Appendix, No. XVII.

**Islandist.** An islander. Uncommon.

1795 We find that the French *islandists* have in some instances grossly ill used Americans.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., April 16.

**Itemize.** To enumerate by items. Webster, 1864.

1881 Æschylus paints these conclusions with a big brush.... Shelley *itemizes* them.—Sidney Lanier, 'English Novel' (1883), p. 98. (N.E.D.)

1888 After Meyer had been thoroughly searched, the articles were *itemized*.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 22 (Farmer).

**-ive** as a terminal. See quotation 1790.

1790 The long drawling pronunciation of the termination *-ive* in such words as *motive*, *productive*, has furnished our brethren with a fund of derision.—Noah Webster in the *Am. Mercury : Mass. Spy*, Sept. 30.

1843 See GRIT.

1855 I've a fust rate reason for bein' sot and posityve, and I mean jest what I say.—*Putnam's Mag.*, vi. 191 (Aug.).

**Ivory** for Ivy. Eng. dial., N.E.D.

1770 [They] found the Child picking of *Ivory* leaves.—*Mass. Gazette*, June 4.

## J

**Jack-case.** See quotation.

1797 [He] heard some one jump down (from the top, as he supposed, of the *jack-case*) upon the roof of the kitchen.... [The fire] was communicated from the eaves which are over the *jack-case* to the garret.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Jan. 6.

**Jack-knife.** To hack.

1806 [The cat was] subjected to the *modus operandi* of a sailor, who *Jackknifed* (as he termed it) the poor creature in several places about the head.—*The Balance*, July 22, p. 228.

**Jack-knife.** To double up. The term is used in logging, when two logs, jammed in the fashion of a half-open knife, obstruct the others.

1897 One of their amusements.... was to throw stones and chips past one another's heads, and raise a laugh at the active dodging and bending the body low, or "*jack-knifing*" as the men called it.—H. Porter, 'Campaigning with Grant,' p. 141. (N.E.D.)

**Jack-leg.** A contemptuous term applied to an inferior lawyer, and less commonly to members of the other professions.

1839 He has charged us with a wish to place on this committee a set of *jack-legged*, pettifogging lawyers.—Mr. Bynum of N. Carolina, House of Repr., Jan. — : *Cong. Globe*, p. 127, App.

1853 They had with them a long-legged chap, a sorter *jack-leg* lawyer.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 137.

1902 The Atlanta *jack-leg lawyer* is akin to the family.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 16.

1904 [They] swallow every dose that's give to 'em from any *jack-leg* preacher that comes along. I don't want no moss-back to do my thinkin' fer me.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 69.

**Jack-Mormon.** A "Gentile" more or less in league with the Mormons.

- 1850 Who was this man Pickett? He was a non-resident, a *jack Mormon* in religion, and a renegade Democrat in politics.—Mr. Leffler of Iowa, House of Repr., June 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 822, App.
- 1857 No officer, if not a Mormon or a *jack Mormon*, can dwell among the Mormons without being subjected to insolence.—Mr. Morrill of Vt., the same, Feb. 23: *id.*, p. 284, App.
- 1870 Backinstos continued a "*Jack Mormon*" to the end of the chapter.—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 61 (Phila., &c.).
- 1870 A slang name applied to Gentiles who favor the Mormons.—*Id.*, p. 130n.
- 1870 From 1850 to 1862, "*jack-Mormonism*" ruled at Washington to a considerable extent, and the Gentiles of Utah had but little help from Federal appointees.—*Id.*, p. 197.

**Jack-pot.** A term used in draw-poker. N.E.D., 1895, 1897.

- 1902 I don't see why you fellers ort always to be allowed to rake in the *jack-pot*.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 74.
- 1911 Washington, July 14.—Testimony about "*jackpots*" or general corruption funds to be used in obtaining votes of legislators, was sought to-day from Gov. Deneen of Illinois, when he resumed the witness stand before the Senate Lorimer election investigating committee.—*N. Y. Ev. Post*, July 17.

**Jack-rabbit.** The prairie hare.

- 1870 The *jack-rabbit* is about four times as large as the common "cotton-tail," and two of them made an ample meal for our crowd of sixteen.—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 222 (Phila., &c.).
- 1878 The only game in most of that region is *jack-rabbits* and sage-hens.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 173.
- 1882 The *jack-rabbits* speed to their holes with long kangaroo-like bounds.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 869. (N.E.D.)

**Jack-the-painter.** See quotation.

- 1812 Perhaps they will burn New York or Boston. If they do, we must burn the city of London, not by expensive fleets or congreve rockets, but by employing a hundred or two *Jack the-painters*, whom nakedness, famine, desperation, and hardened vice, will abundantly furnish from among themselves.—Thomas Jefferson to Col. Duane, Aug. 4.

**Jacket, to dust one's.** To beat, to thrash.

- 1806 Col. Smith will never again way lay Cheetham with a large club, *to dust his jacket*.—*The Balance*, March 18, p. 82.
- [1807 James Cheetham, who openly invited the French troops to come to New York, to scour it of federalists, and "*trim the merchants' jackets*."—*Id.*, April 14, p. 114.]
- 1845 I'll *dust your jacket* if you do it again.—J. B. Buckstone, 'Green Bushes.' (N.E.D.)

**Jackson.** To stick fast.

1903 (Cape Cod.) Used of a ship or of an animal.—'Dialect Notes,' ii. 294.

**Jaded.** Loaded.

1862 We descried a *well-jaded* individual, his face flushed with anger, and personating in every way the character of the Captain.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxviii. 58.  
See also DOUBLE-JADED.

**Jag.** A quantity, a load; later, a load of drink. The word is provincial in England, and occurs in the accounts of certain churchwardens in Essex for the year 1695. See *Notes and Queries*, 8 S. ii. 407, 476.

1834 As there was very little money in the country, the bank bought a good *jag* on't in Europe.—'Major Downing's Letters,' p. 168 (Bartlett).

1891 A "saccharine *jag*" appears to be the latest thing in the way of Yankee intoxication.—*Pall Mall Gaz.*, Sept. 15. (N.E.D.)

\* \* \* Mr. Forrest Morgan of Hartford, Conn., writes that about the middle of the nineteenth century farmers spoke of "taking a little *jag* of wood to market"; adding that the word was always used of a rather small load. (*Notes and Queries*, 10 S. viii. 294.)

**Jam.** An accumulation of logs in a river.

1873 I saw a "*jam*" just above the Copperhead Rapids, near Anoka, which was estimated as containing 25,000 logs, and the loosening of a single one freed the entire mass.—J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 719 (Phila., &c.).  
See also KEY-LOG.

**Jam up.** Close up; completely, fully. In the 1853 example, the word is equivalent to "stunning."

1825 He had been sitting for two or three hours, "*jam up*," in a back seat.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 52.

1825 "Hold in! or you're *jam up*, I swar," cried out a long, slabsided Virginian.—*Id.*, ii. 303.

1835 [Andrew Jackson] went *jam up* for war; but the cabinet got him down to half heat.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 192 (Phila.).

1837 I was standing by the Doctor *jam up* to him.—Balt. *Comml. Transcript*, June 24, p. 2/4.

1846 Their notion is that we go *jam up* to 54° 40', and the Russians come *jam down* to the same, leaving no place for the British lion to put down a paw.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, May 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 852.

1853 Wiggins's tavern was a *jam-up* house of amusement.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, May 9.

1866 Linton played his part of the programme *jam up*.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 61.

**Jamboree.** A carousal ; a " good time."

- 1872 There have not been so many dollars spent on any *jamboree*.  
—*Scribner's Mag.*, iv. 363 (Farmer).

**Jamestown weed.** The *Datura stramonium*. The uneducated call it Jimson Weed.

- 1687 Lighting on a Herb called *James-town-weed*, they gathered it —J. Clayton in 'Phil. Trans.,' xli. 160. (N.E.D.)
- 1705 The *James-Town Weed* is supposed to be one of the greatest Coolers in the World. [Some Soldiers, eating it in a Salad,] turn'd natural Fools upon it for several Days.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' ii. 24.
- 1718 The *Jamestown weed* is excellent for curing burns and assuaging inflammations ; but taken inwardly brings on a sort of drunken madness.—Lawson's 'Carolina,' p. 78 (Bartlett).
- 1813 —A preparation of the *Jamestown weed*, *Datura-Stramonium*, invented by the French in the time of Robespierre. Every man of firmness carried it constantly in his pocket, to anticipate the Guillotine.—Tho. Jefferson to Dr. Samuel Brown, July 14, from Monticello.
- 1829 A rank crop of *Jamestown weed* grew up within.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Swallow Barn,' p. 159 (N.Y., 1851).
- 1837 [The boy died] from eating the seeds of the *Jameston weed*.—Balt. *Comml. Transcript*, Sept. 9, p. 2/1.
- 1846 You are green in bar hunting, said he to me,—green as *jinson weed*,—but don't get shortwinded about it.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 135.
- 1855 Crabs, shrimps, and a species of *gympson (Jamestown) weed*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlvi. 600 (Dec.).
- 1876 She went to the open door . . . and looked out among the tomato vines and *jimson weeds* that constituted the garden.—Mark Twain, 'Tom Sawyer,' p. 18 (Bartlett).

**Japanning.** Badinage. This use of the word is extremely rare.

- 1796 His dirge on the Emperor may be accompanied with a little *japanning* on Madame La Fayette, for so whimsically choosing to be imprisoned with her husband.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 8.

**Jaundicy.** Of the nature of jaundice.

- 1805 A medicine extremely useful for curing *Jaundicy* and Billious (*sic*) Disorders.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, March 13.

**Jaw-cracker.** A long and hard word. The N.E.D. quotes Lever's 'Harry Lorrequer,' 1839, for JAW-BREAKER.

- 1840 The gentleman had brought up many hard words, which he said he could scarcely spell, nor pronounce them after he had spelt them. They were in fact what in Virginia they termed "*jawcrackers*."—Mr. Jones of Va., House of Repr., April 29 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 367.

**Jay.** A country fellow.

1639 "Mr. Bostock, madam." "Retire, and give the jay admittance."—Chapman and Shirley, 'The Ball,' ii. 2. (N.E.D.)

1897 I'm what they call a jay at Harvard, and Harvard don't count if you're a jay.—W. D. Howells, 'Landlord at the Lion's Head,' ch. xxiii.

1904 I acknowledge I felt like a plumb jay from the backwoods.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 189.

**Jayhawker.** A bandit. The name was playfully adopted by a party which started on April 5, 1849, from Galesburg, Ill., for California. See Alex. Majors, 'Seventy Years on the Frontier,' ch. xvii. (1893). Some years afterwards it came to be used only in a bad sense.

1861 We are soldiers, not thieves or plunderers or jayhawkers.—Proclamation of Gen. James Lane, Oct. (Bartlett).

1862 Guess she must a had Secesh beaux,  
And gone to Jayhawker parties from her youth up.  
This bangs the Dutch of St. Louis,  
And they kin swear some.

*Knick. Mag.*, lix. 392 (April).

1862 Then comes a third party, who are called Maywalkers or Jayhawkers, but more properly they are buccanners (*sic*) or land pirates.—Brigham Young, July 6: 'Journal of Discourses,' ix. 320.

1862 There can be no doubt that the party found are a gang of jayhawkers, . . . a part of the jayhawking band led by Madison.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Aug. 28.

1864 Deserters and Federal jayhawkers, as they are termed (*i.e.*, robbers and murderers) with which the country is infested.—Gen. Price's report, 'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' vii. 211 (1879).

1865 Jay-hawkers, cut-throats, and thieves.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, No. 143. (N.E.D.)

1867 Found all the settlers justifying the "Jayhawkers," a name universally applied to Montgomery's men, from the celerity of their movements, and their habit of suddenly pouncing upon an enemy.—A. D. Richardson, 'Beyond the Mississippi,' p. 125. (N.E.D.)

1876 Jeff Thompson, with his few "Jayhawkers," galloped around the town occasionally.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' i. 337.

1888 When only a youth, he was connected with what is known as the jayhawker war, that raged on the borders of Kansas about twenty five years since.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, Jan. 20 (Farmer).

1888 [In Texas, down to 1866,] Jayhawkers, bandits, and bush-whackers had everything their own way.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 260.

1893 Every man suddenly discovering that somebody has jayhawked his boots or his blanket.—*Scribner's Mag.*, xiii. 381.



**Jealous.** Suspicious. Sc., and Eng. dial.

- 1853 I am a little *jealous* that Ellick wa'n't the ring-leader on 'em, after all.—'Turnover: a tale of N. Hampshire,' p. 56 (Boston).

**Jeans.** A coarse and cheap material used for clothing by countrymen. The N.E.D. gives *GEANES*, 1577.

- 1743 "Fustian Dimothys, *Jeans*, &c.," advertised: *Boston Weekly Messenger*, Aug. 22.
- 1786 An Assortment of Goods, consisting of *Jeans*; *jeanets*; *satinets*; &c., advertised: *Maryland Journal*, April 14.
- 1786 *Fustians*; *jeans*; *thicksets*; *denims*; &c.—*Id.*, May 23.
- 1787 Had on a striped waistcoat, *jean* breeches, thread stockings, &c.—Runaway advt., *id.*, Sept. 21.
- 1788 A spinning machine of 80 spindles, drawing cotton suitable for fine *jeans* or federal rib. [Philadelphia Federal Procession.]—*Id.*, July 15.
- 1835 Pantaloons of *Kentucky jean*, and a broad brimmed white hat, &c.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 175.
- 1847 A gentleman in a *Kentucky jeans* coat and a white hat.—Sol Smith's 'Theatrical Adventures,' p. 47.
- 1848 Picture to yourself a lean, raw boned specimen of humanity, some 6 feet 7 or 8, without his shoes, loosely surrounded by a well-worn suit of "*Kentucky jeans*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiii. 231.
- 1853 Youths so very green that they had not yet shed their "*Kentucky jeans*."—'Captain Priest,' p. 60.
- 1856 An elderly gentleman, clad with a suit of *jeans*, arose and came forward.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlviii. 103 (July).
- 1861 His wife, a round-faced damsel, black as the ace of spades, in a full dress of *blue jeans*, came up.—*Id.*, lvii. 623 (June).
- a.1870 James Douglas Williams (1808–1880) governor of Indiana (1876), a well known stump speaker, acquired popularity among the farmers by wearing *blue-jeans* "*inexpressibles*": from which circumstance he was called "*Blue-Jeans Williams*."

**Jeff.** To gamble with printers' quadrats.

- 1837 We move that the printers of the U.S. divide off in halves, and "*jeff*" to see which shall go to digging ditches or picking stone coal for a living.—*Balt. Commercial Transcript*, Nov. 7, p. 2/1.
- 1888 He never set any type except in the rush of the last day, and then he would smouch all the poetry, and leave the rest to *jeff* for the solid takes.—'Amer. Humorist' (Farmer).

**Jell.** To become a jelly. Early examples are hard to find; but Mr. Fitzedward Hall remembers the word, 1830–40. (N.E.D.)

- 1874 She re-boiled, re-sugared, and re-restrained, but the dreadful stuff wouldn't *jell*.—Louisa M. Alcott, 'Little Wives,' chap. v. (N.E.D.)

**Jerky.** See 1884.

1878 A little *jerky* carrying ten passengers.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 386.

1884 The liveliest travelling was by *jerky*, the ordinary American farm-waggon, without springs.—W. Shepherd, 'Prairie Experiences,' p. 108. (N.E.D.)

**Jersey.** New Jersey.

1770 To be sold, five years Time of a likely active *Jersey* girl.—*Boston-Gazette*, May 7.

1776 The militia of *Jersey* had timely notice.—W. Gordon, 'Hist. Am. Revol.,' ii. 356 (Lond., 1788).

1777 Your authority in *the Jersies* is now reduced to the small circle which your army occupies.—Letter to Lord Howe: *Maryland Journal*, Jan. 25.

1777 The violent depredations of the enemy in the *Jersey state*.—*Id.*, Feb. 25.

1778 Last week, the *Jersey* militia took a Prize, and began to unload her.—*Id.*, Jan. 20.

1790 Instead of half-joes or guineas, I have brought some quadrangular stones back with me to *Jersey*, as matters of curiosity.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 7.

1795 "A *Jersey* lawyer" writes to the *Gazette of the U.S.*, Jan. 16.

1798 A *Jersey* militia man has taken up the literary cudgel against the *Jersey* governor's late invective.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 17.

1798 The schooner *Eagle*, lately wrecked on the *Jersey* shore on her passage from Cork in Ireland.—*Id.*, Nov. 6.

1798 I believe [he] only said so to make fun of me, cause I was a *Jarzyman*.... I can dance a *Jarzy* reel or jig.... They said I was a *Jarzy* Blue Dog, and they would cut my head off.—*Id.*, Dec. 13.

1799 Some time since, in *Jersey*, a pack of people had assembled too late to salute the president with a round of cannon.—*Id.*, Nov. 13.

1800 Jonathan Dayton was made a Doctor of Laws in *Jersey*, and no one can tell why, unless for presiding over the boxing match in Congress.—*Id.*, Feb. 22.

1800 The people of *Jersey* have not been indifferent to the doings at Princeton.—*Id.*, April 21.

1800 The late attempt in *Jersey* to buy over the Society of Friends.—*Id.*, April 22.

1800 The states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Kentucky have encreased in still greater proportion than *Jersey* and Delaware.... *Jersey* and Delaware would act as heretofore. .... *Jersey* and Delaware already manifest, &c.—*Id.*, Aug. 1.

1804           Loaf sugar free from duty passes,  
              And *Jersey* people drink molasses.  
              *Mass. Spy*, Jan. 25 : from *the Connecticut Courant*.

**Jersey—contd.**

- 1806 Our Reverend neighbour in law, to use the *Jersey* phrase.  
—*The Repertory*, Boston, Oct. 10.
- 1838 "A *Jersey* wagon" is described.—'Harvardiana,' iv. 210.
- [1806 Similarly "ORLEANS" for NEW ORLEANS.—*The Repertory*, July 18, has "the territory of *Orleans*," "the *Orleans* legislature."]

**Jersey Blue.** See quotation.

- 1852 So well were the people of New Jersey known....in the time of the Revolutionary war, that the term applied to them was "*Jersey Blue*," synonymous of truth and fidelity, and even to this day is the same term applied to the inhabitants of that State.—Mr. Skelton of N.J., House of Repr., Aug. 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 967, App.

**Jesse.** To give a person jesse is to beat him, or to scold him violently. PARTICULAR JESSE is Jesse in an aggravated form. The phrase, as will be seen, is capable of variation; but "Jesse" is the "jus et norma loquendi."

- 1835 If you was to talk that way to a white man in my country, he'd *give you first-class hell*.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 45 (Phila.).
- 1844 Hail, Columbia, "free and equal,"  
Lo, the Saints, the Mormons, bless ye!  
Felt thy glory most severely,  
When Missouri gave them *jesse*.  
*Nauvoo Neighbor*, April 17.
- 1845 He turned on the woman and gave her *Jesse*.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' i. 243.
- 1847 [The devil] is afraid of me since I last gave him *Zachy* over upon Wind-whistle Island.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 103.
- 1847 Sol cooked the liver jess to the right pint, and we *giv it jessy*.—'Chunkey's Fight,' p. 133 (Phila.).
- 1847 [To an editor.] Don't forget to gin the town below *particular saltpetre*.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 31.
- 1847 You've slashed the hide off 'er that feller in the lower town, touched his raw, and rumped his feathers,—that's the way to *give him jessy*.—*Id.*, p. 33.
- 1847 The afarr [affair] raised *jessy* in Nettle Bottom.—*Id.*, p. 59.
- 1847 Allen was giving him *particular jesse*.—*Id.*, p. 81.
- 1848 Now such performances as this  
Dont suit your uncle Siah,  
And if you doesn't print the next  
*He'll give you Jesseniah*.  
*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 95.
- 1850 She tuk off her shoe, and the way a number ten go-to-meetin' brogan commenced givin' a hoss *particular Moses* were a caution to hoss-flesh.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 52, (Phila.).
- 1851 Give him *Jesse*, now, about the bull.—'Widow Rugby's Husband,' p. 75.
- 1851 I'll just gin my nigger Jake *perfect Israel* when I git home.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 109.

**Jesse**—*contd.*

- 1851 I'll give you *particular thunder* one time, and then perhaps you will stay out of here.—'An Arkansas Doctor,' p. 51.
- 1853 The coons *play particular Peter* in the corn-fields.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 197.
- 1854 Any one who gets up a row in our country, catches *particular fits*.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 184.
- 1855 A subscriber requests us to give that mongrel legislature "*Hark, from the tombs.*"—*Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, Kansas, Aug. 25.
- 1857 I heard Captain Blazes say this very morning, that for the future he'd be *particular death* on all chaplains.—*Knick Mag.*, l. 587 (Dec.).
- 1857 It is represented that a great many people from Salt Lake have been met, and they all say the Mormons are going to *give us Jessie*.—*St. Louis Republican*, n.d. (Bartlett).
- 1860 Show them . . . that you have the ability still to *give them "Jesse."*—*Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 2, p. 1/5.
- 1861 The overseer charged the driver to *give him particular hell*.—*Oregon Argus*, Jan. 19.
- 1863 Wherever we go [after vaccination] we are sure to *catch jesse* on our sore arm.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, April 2.

**Jibe.** See GIBE.

**Jig (the) is up.** All is over.

- 1777 Mr. John Miller came in and said, "*The jig is over with us.*" . . . Good news to hear the Tories crying out, "*The jig is over.*"—*Maryland Journal*, June 17.
- 1800 As the Baltimore paper says, "*The Jigg's up, Paddy.*" . . . The Baltimore *American* humourously observes, that the Federal *Jigg is up*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Dec. 17.
- 1848 I know'd the *jig was up*.—Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 14 (Farmer).
- 1848 I'm satisfied *the jig is up* with us.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 310.
- 1866 If one of us happens to speak a word, *the jig is up*.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 206.
- 1869 Our homes are desolate, our friends are dead. Behold, *the jig is up*: let us die.—Mark Twain, 'New Pilgrim's Progress,' chap. ix.

**Jigamaree.** A fantastical contrivance.

- 1824 "O the wonderation, what a nation sight of *jiggermarees*!" "Yes, faith," quoth Ned, "and as thick as seven bumblebees on a punkin blow."—*Old Colony Memorial* (Plymouth), March 6.
- 1844 Mary was sewin' something mighty fine, with ruffles and *jigamarees* all around it.—'Major Jones's Courtship' (Bartlett).
- 1848 I axed the captain what sort of a *gigamaree* he had got up thar for a flag.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 156,

**Jig-saw.**

- 1873 With respect to *jig-saws*, the band saw and duplicating machines have driven most of them out of use.—J. Richards, 'Wood-Working Factories,' p. 128. (N.E.D.)

**Jimber-jawed.** See quotations.

- 1834 Some pushed out the under jaw, like a person who (to use a Southern term) is *jimber-jawed*.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 195 (N.Y.).
- 1848-60 *Gimbal-jawed* or *jimber-jawed*, whose lower jaw is loose and projecting (Bartlett).
- 1890 Word used in Philadelphia.—'Dialect Notes,' i. 74.

**Jim-crow cars.** See quotations.

- 1900 In many Southern states there are laws compelling the railroad companies to run on their trains separate cars for colored people, . . . which are called "*Jim-Crow*" cars.—*Morning Leader*, Dec. 19. (N.E.D.)
- 1906 There were no "*Jim Crow*" cars, no sleepers, and no smokers [on the "Underground Railroad"].—B. Washington, 'Life of Fred. Douglass,' p. 159.
- 1910 Washington, May 31.—An attempt to get the Supreme Court of the United States to pass on the authority of common carriers engaged in interstate commerce to make "*Jim Crow*" regulations, met with failure to-day when the court dismissed the so-called Chiles appeal.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, June 2.

**Job out.** To put out (an eye).

- 1844 He had "*jobbed out*" the eye of one gentleman.—'Martin Chuzzlewit,' chap. xxxiii. (N.E.D.)
- 1846 Let the young Samson of the West beware that he is not . . . delivered into the hands of the Philistines, and his eyes *jobbed out*.—Mr. McClernand of Illinois, House of Repr., June 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 983.

**Job's turkey.** Usually a symbol of poverty. But see 1824.

- 1824 We have seen fit to say "the patience of *Job's turkey*," instead of the common phrase, "as patient as Job." And so it must go for this time at any rate. 'Twould worry out the patience of *Job's turkey* to be picked and pillaged from in this way.—*The Microscope*, May 22: from the *Troy Sentinel*.
- [1839 All the honest people he ever knew were as poor as *King David's goslings*.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' ii. 39 (Phila.).]
- 1843 He's as poor as *Job's turkey*, if it wan't for that powerful sallury the trustees give him.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 85.
- 1848 They must be as old and tough as *Job's turkey*.—C. W. Webber, 'Old Hicks the Guide,' p. 49 (N.Y.).
- 1852 We are as poor as the turkey of Job, and I don't know when I've seed the colour of any one's brandy.—C. H. Wiley, 'Life in the South,' p. 17 (Phila.).

**Job's turkey—contd.**

1856 Why are we all, now, *poor as Job's turkeys*?—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 44 (N.Y.).

[1866 I should rather be *as poor as Job's cat* all the days of my life.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 184.]

1872 But laws! don't I remember when he was poorer nor *Job's turkey*?—E. Eggleston, 'The Hoosier Schoolmaster,' p. 22.

**Jockey-stick.** See quotation.

1888 [In driving a prairie schooner,] a small hickory stick, about five feet long, called the *jockey-stick*, not unlike a rake-handle, is stretched between a pilot [mule] and his mate.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 352.

**Jo-fired.** A variant of ALL-FIRED, *q.v.*

1824 Whate'er *joe fir'd* racket they keep up.—*Woodstock* (Vt.) *Observer*, Feb. 24.

1833 He is a *jo-fired* horse for all that.—Elmwood, 'A Yankee among the Nullifiers,' p. 29.

1834 It's *jo-fired* hard, though, I'll be hanged if it aint.—*Vermont Free Press*, July 19: from the *N.Y. Constellation*.

1835 I have lately found out a most *Jo-fired* discovery.—D. P. Thompson, 'Adventures of Timothy Peacock,' p. 168.

1848 He always know'd B. was a *jo-fired* fool, but he didn't want him carried off for all that.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 50.

**Jo. Johnson cap.** See quotation.

1857 [When I was a boy,] my sisters would make me what was called a *Jo. Johnson cap* for winter.—Brigham Young, Aug. 2: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 97.

**Johannes or Joe.** A gold coin of Portugal, worth about eight dollars. See also HALF-JOE.

1762 A *Johannes* or Gold Coin of Portugal shall not weigh less than Eighteen Pennyweight ten Grains, an *Half Johannes* not less than Nine Pennyweights and five Grains.—Act of the Great and General Court of Mass.: *Boston Ev. Post*, March 16.

1765 Into the L...rs hands [full] many a *Jo*  
We've sily put, that so their tongues might go.  
*Id.*, Oct. 14.

1765 Be it enacted,....that one guinea shall be valued at Twenty-eight shillings,....a *Double Johannes* or gold coin of Portygal....at four pounds sixteen shillings.—'New Hampshire Prov. Papers,' vii. 77. (N.E.D.)

1766 Lost, a green worsted Purse, with a *Johannes*, some Dollars, &c., in it.—Advt., *Mass. Gazette*, Feb. 6.

1769 The man missed a *Johannes*, four *half Johannes*, and two half Pistereens.—*Boston News-Letter*, March 23, Suppl.

1784 There will be taught privately, for *One Half Johannes*, a late invented system of the Short Hand.—*Virginia Journal*, Dec. 16.

1788 One vessel, after being detained, was released, the Captain paying 27 *joes*.—*Maryland Journal*, March 25.

1788 A considerable number of base *Johannes* have lately been brought [to Philadelphia] from the state of Massachusetts.—*Mass. Spy*, July 3.

**Johannes or Joe—contd.**

- 1789 Should it rain millions of *joes* into your chimnies, on your present system of expenses you would still have no money.—*Am. Museum*, v. 263 (Dec. 14).
- 1791 If he has nothing but *Johannes*, he will often fall among those where he can make use of them.—*Mass. Spy*, April 28.
- 1797 My mate having 32 *joes* in his chest, they forcibly took that also.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., April 7.
- 1825 She is coming this way; *joes* to coppers, that she speaks to me.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 337.
- 1827 Two young men found hid in the earth a number of gold coins, consisting of *joes*, *half joes*, &c., such as were in circulation among the French soldiers during the Revolutionary war.—Corr. from Lynchburg, Va.: *Mass. Spy*, May 23.
- 1870 *Jo* is a Portuguese coin of eight dollars, common in this country at one period.—G. T. Curtis, 'Life of Daniel Webster,' i. 586 n.

**Johnny, John.** A Chinaman.

- 1857 He knows. He's seed the *Johnnies* goin' into that there doorway next block.—Thomas B. Gunn, 'New York Boarding Houses,' p. 275.
- 1873 I passed out of the Chinese theatre, with a lady and two children. We had to walk through a crowd of *Johns*.—Charles Nordhoff, 'California,' p. 85.
- 1878 The melancholy "*Johns*," with glazed caps and black pig-tails, [looked] like a lot of half-drowned crows.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 401.

**Johnny, Johnny Reb.** A Confederate soldier.

- 1867 There lay one of the enemy, dead, with his gun cocked ready to fire at his *Johnny*; but another *Johnny* was too quick for him.—J. M. Crawford, 'Mosby and his Men,' p. 223.
- 1867 Temptations against which the most obdurate of *Johnnies* was not proof.—W. L. Goss, 'A Soldier's Story,' p. 34.
- 1876 He had his pistol out on any occasion while dealing with the majority of the "*Johnnies*."—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' i. 264.
- 1885 By the Widow Perkins (said another), if *Johnny Reb* hasn't taken their rudders away, and sent them adrift.—Admiral Porter, 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 170.

**Johnny-cake.** Originally *Journey-cake*. See quot. 1848, 1849.

- 1775 [Rice] is....only fit for puddings,....or to make the wafer-like bread called *journey-cakes* in Carolina.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 125. (N.E.D.)
- 1793 Some talk of Hoe-cake, fair Virginia's pride;  
Rich *Johnny-cake* this mouth has often try'd;  
Both please me well, their virtues much the same,  
Alike their fabric, as allied their fame.  
Joel Barlow, 'The Hasty Pudding,' p. 8 (1815).
- 1823 To the lovers of *Jonny-cake*, and to the sons of swate Ireland, this must be cheering news.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 29.



**Johnny-cake—contd.**

- 1824           And all at Washington now resident,  
               From shoe-blacks quite up to the President,  
               As well the leaders as the led,  
               Would lack e'en *Johnny-cake* for bread.  
               ' New England Farmer's Boy ' : New Year's Address.
- 1832   The fire is made for tea, and the fresh *journey cake* baked  
       before the fire.—Watson, ' Hist. Tales of N.Y., ' p. 65.
- 1834           A *johnnie cake*,—[a] sonsie fellow,  
               That swam in butter warm and yellow.  
   *Vermont Free Press*, Oct. 4.
- 1836   The real name is *Journey cake* ; that is, cake made in haste  
       for a journey. *Johnny cake* ! We might as well call it  
       Tommy or Pelatiah cake !—Phila. *Public Ledger*, May 21.
- 1840   America will shrink back to the primeval simplicity of  
       *Johnny-cakes* and sour-kROUT.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis,  
       April 22.
- 1840           Connecticut, to frogs once fatal,  
               Is the state I call my natal,  
               Which most of other States surpasses  
               In pumpkins,—*johnny cakes*,—molasses.  
       Entry in a hotel register : ' Buckingham, E. and W. States,'  
       ii. 162.
- 1847   Then came the fine meal Indian *Johnny-cake*, mixed with  
       cream, eggs, and sugar, and forming, when rightly made,  
       perhaps the most delectable esculent of the bread kind  
       that ever gratified an epicure's palate.—D. P. Thompson,  
       ' Locke Amsden,' p. 22.
- 1847   In the morning, a buckeye backlog and hickory forestick  
       resting on stone and irons, with a *Johnny-cake* on a clean  
       ash-board set before it to bake.—Drake, ' Pioneer Life in  
       Kentucky,' p. 107 (Cincinnati, 1870).
- 1847   Father purchased a piece of " *johnny-cake* " as large as  
       his two hands, for which he paid one and sixpence, or  
       twenty-five cents.—*Id.*, p. 12.
- 1848   Corn-meal, pounded in a wooden mortar, or ground in a  
       handmill of steel, supplied the place of flour....The  
       dough, when properly prepared, was spread upon a piece  
       of shaved clapboard from three to four inches wide, and  
       from fifteen to twenty inches long, and baked upon the  
       hearth. When both sides were perfectly done, it was  
       called *journey-cake* or *Johnny-cake*. A *journey-cake*  
       board was an indispensable implement of frontier cooking.  
       *Johnny-cake* and pone were the only varieties of bread used  
       among the early frontier settlements for breakfast and  
       dinner....When milk was not plenty, the lack was sup-  
       plied by the substantial dish of hommony, or pounded  
       corn thoroughly boiled.—Monette, ' History of the Miss.  
       Valley,' ii. 8 (N.Y.).

**Johnny-cake—contd.**

- 1848        Sure there'll be a new creation ;  
              Sure there won't be no starvation ;  
              Spirit-aiding ; heart up-moving ;  
              Life-reviving ; health-improving ;  
              New ideal  
              Super-Real  
              Indian *Johnny-cake*.  
                                  *Knick. Mag.*, xxxi. 225 (March).
- 1849    *Constituents of Johnny Cake*. Three teacupfuls of corn meal ; one of wheat flour ; two of milk ; one of cream ; one or two eggs ; one teaspoonful of saleratus dissolved in hot water, and half a teaspoonful of salt. Girls, hurry up breakfast.—*Frontier Guardian*, July 25.
- 1853    [They are] like the young man in Nauvoo, who sat down to breakfast from a *Johnny cake* alone.—Brigham Young, Dec. 5 : 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 337.
- 1856    Do you eat *johnnycake* ? 'cause if you don't I'll cut some wheat bread.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 7.

**Johnny-jump-up.** A name given to certain flowers. In Aroostook, Maine, the pansy. ('Dialect Notes,' iii. 413.)

- 1858    You stand here, and with smiling faces spend \$60,000. a year for morning-glories and *johnny jump-ups*.—Mr. Marshall of Kentucky, House of Repr., May 19 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 2244.
- 1908    I used to call 'em *Johnny-jump-ups*, till Henrietta told me that their right name was daffydil. But *Johnny-jump-up* suits 'em best, for it kind o' tells how they come up in the spring.—'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 274.

**Johnny Newcome.** A new-comer in the oil regions.

- 1865    The *Johnny Newcomes* had to fight their way to the bar, and deposit 75c. for the bit of blue paste-board.—Bone, 'Petroleum and Petroleum Wells,' p. 24 (Phila.).

**Joint.** An unlicensed drinking place ; also an opium den.

- 1883    I have smoked opium in every *joint* in America.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 945. (N.E.D.)
- 1899    There were from sixty to eighty "*joints*" (i.e., illicit liquor places) in the city.—Rowntree and Sherwell, 'Temperance Problem,' p. 197. (N.E.D.)
- 1909    Scouts were sent [from Kansas City, Kas.] into every "*joint*" in the county to gather evidence.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Jan. 28.

**Joke.** See quotation. Obsolete.

- 1833    They used to have a play at the time of the fairs, called "throwing at the *joke*." A leather cylinder, not unlike a high candlestick, was placed on the ground over a hole. The adventurers placed their coppers on the top of the *joke*, then retired to a distance and tossed a stick at it.—Watson, 'Historic Tales of Philadelphia,' p. 152.

**Jonathan.** The American people: a word corresponding to John Bull. See also BROTHER JONATHAN.

- 1816 John didn't mind, but took our ships,  
And kidnapp'd our true sailors,  
And *Jonathan* resolv'd to play  
The d—l among the whalers.  
*Analectic Mag.*, vii. 311 (April).
- 1818 The President's lady [Mrs. Monroe] visits no one. This is very proper; but *Jonathan's* wife does not like it; she wants a gossiping visit or two.—*Mass. Spy*, May 13.
- 1837 John Bull has been at his ease, while *Jonathan* has been in trouble.—Mr. Niles of Conn., U.S. Senate, Sept. 23: *Congressional Globe*, p. 194, App.
- 1841 The English Privy Council would say, God grant that this man may remain here as *Jonathan's* minister till the end of time; we may be sure he never will know any thing of our real intentions.—John Q. Adams, House of Repr., Sept. 4: *id.*, p. 434, App.
- 1846 *Jonathan* was hard to provoke; but when once you did get him up, he remained at a dead white heat for a long while.—Mr. Root of Ohio, the same, Dec. 24: *id.*, p. 86.
- 1848 *Jonathan* is declared to be in his right in supporting his diplomatic agents like private gentlemen.—Mr. Ingersoll of Pa., the same, June 30: *id.*, p. 818, App.
- 1850 *Jonathan*, sir, is said to be an In-di-vid-u-al not only remarkably qualified for attending to his own business, but who has a *penchant* for looking a little into the business of his neighbors.—Mr. Calvin of Pa., the same, May 15: *id.*, p. 611, App.

**Jonathan.** An individual American;] particularly a "Down-Easter."

- 1827 A tall, boney *Jonathan*, whose appetite was in proportion to the magnitude of his frame.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 14.
- 1829 *Jonathan* is there; his coat is off, and he is ready for a job.—*Id.*, Nov. 25: from *The Pawtucket Chronicle*.
- 1830 Many a poor *Jonathan*, who had a full cargo of provisions, and who calculated on running in in the night, was picked up.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 205.
- 1830 The English, I must confess, seemed to be more liberal than the *Jonathans*, whose calculating, money making disposition always shews itself.—*Id.*, p. 240.
- 1830 No sooner was the cargo sold, than *Jonathan* seemed to come to his senses.—*Mass. Spy*, June 9.
- 1830 After many inquiries, he met with a *Kentucky Jonathan*.—*Id.*, July 14.
- 1842 *Brother Jonathan* [an enterprising Yankee] put his ice down to half a cent per pound.—Mr. Washington of N. Carolina, House of Repr., July 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 858, App.
- 1843 Occasionally you will see some honest country *Jonathan*, with his waggon full of "yankee notions."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 44.

**Josephus.** A gold coin of Portugal (?).

1770 A set of Instruments for casting, stamping, and milling Josephuses of 1756, 1760, and 1763, [has been found].—*Boston Evening Post*, Oct. 29.

**Josh.** To tease. A college word: 'Dialect Notes,' ii. 44.

1891 Oh go away. . . . I fear you are *joshing* me.—*Century Mag.*, p. 63. (N.E.D.)

**Joshua.** This word is commonly pronounced Josh-away, perhaps in consequence of bad teaching in Sunday Schools. A curious parallel is found in the name of Nashua, New Hampshire; for the present writer remembers a railway conductor, in 1875, when the train stopped there, shouting out, "Nash-away! Nash-away!"

**Jounce.** To shake.

1833 Mind how ye *jounce* that air chist about! Have to pay for all ye break.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 14.

1838 Every time [the basket] knocks agin the house, it *jounces* my life out.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 43. [For a fuller citation, see NATION.]

a.1854 If man causes everything down here to hobble, hitch, grate, jerk, *jounce*, and joggle along, up thar all glides on as "slick" as goose-grease.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 70.

1910 Nearer shore is a longer, narrower raft, supported by two cigar-shaped wind-bags looking like smaller editions of the Zeppelin airship. A favorite diversion is to rock this raft violently from side to side till most of the occupants slide off. Last Sunday the raft was *jounced* about so severely that it broke its anchorages.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Aug. 4.

**Joy-ride.** A ride at break-neck speed. Modern.

1909 About midnight he took the engine out on the main track, and had a wild "*joy-ride*."—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Nov. 25.

1910 Richard Sage, a seventeen-year-old chauffeur, was convicted of man-slaughter in the second degree while on a *joy-ride*. . . . Judge Dike remarked that the next *joy-rider* who was brought before him would be sentenced to Sing Sing.—*Id.*, June 13.

**Juba.** A negro dance accompanied with patting or slapping.

1834 A man looks so unromantic, with his teeth and his hands and his feet all in motion, like a negro dancing "*Juba*."—'The Kentuckian in N. York,' i. 113.

1865 No warlike lands, where chiefly grow  
The Corn-cake, *Juba*, and Banjo.

*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxx. 164.

1888 Chuckles of delight and wild *juba patting* and dancing around the victim.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 98.

1888 The fattest darkey of all waddled down next, and did a break-down, at which all the assembly *patted juba*, and with their woolly heads kept time to the violin.—*Id.*, p. 234.

1890 (Accommodated use.) To make a child *dance joober* is to whip him. (Kentucky).—'Dialect Notes,' i. 65.

**Judgmatical.** Judicious.

- 1774 I should be glad to have an Answer from some of the *Judgmatical* Heads in America.—*Boston-Gazette*, Feb. 21.
- b.1812 Them are all *judgmatical* books.—John Bernard, 'Retrospections,' p. 325. [For a fuller citation see CURT.]
- 1826 A *judgmatical* rap on the head stiffened the lying impostor.—J. F. Cooper, 'The Mohicans,' ch. xxv. (N.E.D.)
- 1834 He was a great hand at settling and arranging duels, being what we generally call in Ireland a *judgmatical* sort of man,—a word which, I think, might be introduced with advantage into the English vocabulary.—'Bob Burke's Duel,' *Blackwood's Mag.*, May, p. 751.
- 1840 It wan't *judgmatical* in young Max to expect more from him.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Greyslaer,' i. 46 (Lond.).
- 1846 'Twas not a *judgmatical* shot, and Smith thar would say so.—'Bob Herring,' by T. B. Thorpe: 'Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.,' p. 137.
- 1854 I stood higher with Uncle John than any one else, as "a raal *judgmatical* man."—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 322.
- 1856 I concluded that he had been very *judgematical* in selecting his converts.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlviii. 616 (Dec.).

**Jugfull.** See NOT BY A JUGFULL.

- Julep.** A mixed drink flavored with mint. The word itself is about five hundred years old: N.E.D.
- 1760 The Doctor prescribed a *repetatur* of the *julep*, and mixed the ingredients *secundum artem*.—T. Smollett, 'Sir Lancelot Greaves,' ch. iii. (*British Magazine*, i. 124.)
- 1787 [An ordinary Virginian] rises about six o'clock. He drinks a *julap* made of rum, water, and sugar, but very strong.—*Am. Museum*, i. 246 (March).
- 1802 Their breakfasts [in Newengland] are not of whiskey *julep*, nor of gin sling; but of tea and coffee.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 8: from *The Newport (R.I.) Mercury*.
- 1803 The first thing he did on getting out of bed was to call for a *Julep*. (Note.) A dram of spirituous liquor that has mint steeped in it, taken by Virginians of a morning.—John Davis, 'Travels in the U.S.A.,' p. 379 (Lond.).
- 1809 The inhabitants [of Maryland] were prone to get fuddled, and make merry with *mint julep* and apple toddy.—W. Irving, 'Hist. of N.Y.,' ii. 171 (1812).
- 1809 *Id.*, i. 239. See GOUGE. *Id.*, ii. 173. See HOE-CAKE.
- 1816 The first thing in the morning, with many [in Virginia], is the silver goblet of *mint-julap*.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 71 (Boston, 1824).
- 1816 Ball against the field for a *mint Julep*; tote my weight to a ketch.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 13: from the *So. Carolina Telescope*.
- 1825 Such is the rage for *mint juleps*, that nobody will buy a farm at any price, unless it produces plenty of mint.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 200.

## Julep—contd.

- 1829 Our two friends got out to take a glass of *mint julap*,—which I learned from them was a species of dram.—Basil Hall, 'Travels in N. America,' iii. 71.
- 1832 The custom of taking *julaps*, or raw spirits, in which mint is crushed, is not very common in the Middle States.—S. G. Goodrich, 'System of Univ. Geog.,' p. 197 (Boston).
- 1833 I resorted to stimulants and tonics,—a *mint-julep* in the morning, bitters at noon, and wine after dinner.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 132 (Phila.).
- 1835 *Mint-julep* is a favourite mixture of spirits, mint, sugar, and water.—Reed, 'Visit to America,' i. 172.
- 1836 A *mint julep* as described by *The Boston Transcript* :—It was a luxury even to look at the chrystal drops, stolen from the invisible air, and made palpable to the touch as they sprang into being on the cold ice bosom of the transparent goblet, and mingled their tiny bodies into sparkling rivulets, like living streams gushing from moss clad rock shaded by copse wood.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, May 23.
- 1838 " *Mint julaps* " before breakfast, " hailstorms " at dinner, and " old Monongahela " at night.—B. Drake, 'Tales and Sketches,' p. 27 (Cincinnati).
- 1840 The season for *Mint-Juleps* has arrived.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, April 18.
- 1840       What blessed lot is thine, John Hodges !  
Thy ministering care dislodges  
Every cobweb, ache, and care  
From the throat, the heart, the hair.  
To thee we look to set us right  
When spreeing over-late at night.  
The gentle, potent, soothing draught  
Which thou concoctest, might be quaffed  
By angels, or by nuns at prayer,  
Without suspecting what was there.  
O captivating devil thou,  
More beauteous far than rose or tulip !  
How can we best thy virtues show ?  
Let's see,—by, " Here, John, bring a *julep* ! " *Id.*, April 20.
- 1842 His *mint-julap* or sling, when the weather required it.—Buckingham, 'Slave States,' i. 197. [For fuller quotation see HARDSHELL BAPTISTS.]
- 1842 The editor of the *N.Y. Sunday Atlas* crows over a *cham-pagne julep* to which he has been treated.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 30.
- 1860       He likes, whatever others think,  
          Virginia's own libation ;  
          A whiskey *julep* is the drink  
          That typifies the nation.  
Verses by John P. Thompson, *Richmond Enquirer*, May 22, p. 4/3.

**Julep**—*contd.*

1861 On my way to the upper deck, I observed the bar was crowded by gentlemen engaged in consuming, or in waiting for, cocktails or *mint juleps*.—W. H. Russell's 'Diary,' April 14.

1861 *Mint juleps* are made of whiskey, sugar, ice, very little water, and sprigs of fresh mint, to be sucked up after the manner of sherry cobbles.—*Id.*, July 27.

**Jump.** A woman's jacket. Examples, 1654–1703. (N.E.D.)

1773 Thomas Allen, Stay Maker, from London, announces that "he makes all Sorts of Stays, *Jumps*, Gazetts, &c."—*Boston Evening Post*, April 26.

1799 Ran away, a negro wench, named Susanna.... Had on a coarse grey woollen *jump*, &c.—Advt., *The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 10.

**Jump.** To take possession of what belongs to another. Especially to jump a [mining] claim.

1839 They steal from whom they please; and if the person they take from accuses them, they *jump on* more of his property.—'Hist. of V. A. Stewart,' p. 18 (N.Y.).

1851 Here was no *jumping of claims*, but all were satisfied to select from that part of the vast surface of the whale around which lines had not been run.—Gustavus Hines, 'Oregon,' p. 198.

1854 To *jump a claim*.—*Melbourne Argus*. (N.E.D.)

1855 If a man *jumped my claim*, and encroached on my boundaries, and I didn't knock him on the head with a pickaxe, I appealed to the crowd.—F. S. Marryat, 'Mountains and Molehills,' p. 217 (Bartlett).

1856 Davis "*jumped*" (as the squatters term it) the city of Fort Calhoun, which at the time had not an inhabitant in it, and but one log cabin.—Mr. Bennet of Nebraska, House of Repr., July 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 964, App.

**Jumper.** See quotations.

1823 They frequently make these *jumper*s to convey their game home.—J. F. Cooper, 'The Pioneers,' p. 126. (N.E.D.)

1833 Did you ever see a *jumper*? It is a primitive kind of sledge, or *traineau*. A couple of hickory poles are so bent as to serve for both shafts and runners; on these is placed a crate, supported by four props.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 194 (Lond., 1835).

**Jumping-off place or point.** The end of a journey; the last place to be reached; an "ultima Thule."

1826 Being, as they phrase it, the *jumping off place* [Natchitoches] is the resort of desperate, wicked creatures.—T. Flint, 'Recoll.,' p. 366.

1836 Natchez under the hill is in fact the *jumping off place*.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 98 (Phila.).

1848 It surprises one to come so unexpectedly upon these gaping fissures, which look at first as if the earth's crust was split down to its very center, and you feel as though you had come to the "*jumping-off place*."—C. W. Webber, 'Old Hicks the Guide,' p. 97 (N.Y.).



**Jumping-off place or point—contd.**

- 1851 [The Yazoo] comes closer bein' the *jumpin off place* than any I ever hearn tell on.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 68.
- 1855 We do not find out the impossibility of the thing, until we come very near to the *jumping-off place*.—'Fudge Doings,' i. 136.
- 1856 Is all the beauty in existence centred in the *jumping-off-point* of New Jersey?—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 285 (Sept.).
- 1857 Away down upon the Atlantic coast, nearly at the *jumping-off-place* of this country, dozes in the sun a small city [St. Augustine, Florida].—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxii. 261.
- 1861 Brunswick, Maine, almost the *jumping-off place* of Down-East.—*Knick. Mag.*, lvii. 669 (June).

**June-bug.** A name applied to any insect that appears in June.

- 1836 I said, "I should admire to bet some gentleman \$10 on the bay." A Mr. Wash snapped me up like a duck does a *June-bug*.—'A Quarter Race in Kentucky,' p. 15 (1846).
- 1836 [The cougar] was down upon me like a night-hawk upon a *June-bug*.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 154 (Phila.).
- 1836 That notion played directly into the hands of [Mr. Adams's] opponents, and they hopped upon it, to use a homely phrase, like a duck on a *June-bug*.—Mr. Hawes, House of Repr., May 5: *Congressional Globe*, p. 349.
- 1840 The editors came down upon him like a bat upon a *June-bug*.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, May 29.
- 1849 —Not from one lone jug,  
But every barrel now hath lost its bung,  
And "Old Rye" answers from his rusty mug,  
On which "the boys" do light, "like duck on a *June-bug*."  
*Knick. Mag.*, xxxiv. 81 (July).
- 1854 Beating *June-bugs* from roses is his morning repast.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 282.
- 1854 As soft and cerulean as a cloudless sky in the month of *June-bugs* and roses.—*Id.*, iv. 138.
- 1855 A strange fellow, with a clever French faculty of making a dish out of a *June bug*.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' p. 524 (N.Y.).
- 1862 He has lighted upon [General] Scott as a hawk lights upon a *June bug*.—Corr., *The Standard*, Dec. 12. (N.E.D.)

**Junk.** Miscellaneous second-hand stuff. Hence junk-dealer, junk-shop, &c.

- 1842 Champagne was charged for under the head of "old *junk*."—Mr. Proffit of Indiana, House of Repr., Feb. 23: *Cong. Globe*, p. 261.
- 1848 Trash that wouldn't fetch two cents in the market of heaven, and but a trifle more in the *junk-shops* of hell.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 256.
- 1851 The all receiving shop of some dealer in old *junk*.—*Yale Tomahawk*, Feb.
- 1882 The marine store or "*junk*" dealer, as he is styled in New York.—G. A. Sala, 'America Revisited,' p. 70. (N.E.D.)

**Junk**—*contd.*

- 1884 The sweepings of a city, bones, *junk*,—a collection of pestilence-breeding filth.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, Aug. 6. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 "A *Junk-store* rifled."—Heading, *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, March 10 (Farmer).
- 1895 What the sheriff could get for the goods sold in a lump for cash....possibly only a *junkman* for bidder.—*The Outlook*, N.Y., Aug. 24. (N.E.D.)

**Jury-fixer.** One who "fixes" a jury, usually by bribing some of its members.

- 1882 There was an idea abroad that there might be some scope in the proceedings before the Grand Jury for a "*jury fixer*."—*Washington Post*, March 18.
- 1886 An organized attempt is being made *to fix the jury*.—*Boston Journal*, July 15. (N.E.D.)

**Just so.** Precise, precisely.

- 1794 A few years ago, every body supposed that if people did not behave *just so*, they ought to be punished.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 3.
- 1824 Their *just so* garb makes [the Quakers] appear like antediluvians.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 18 (Boston).

**Just what, Just how, &c.** The word *just*, in these phrases, is equivalent to "precisely."

- 1884 *Just what* makes the best lodgement for oyster spawn.... has been greatly discussed.—G. B. Goode, 'Fisheries of the U.S.,' p. 543. (N.E.D.)
- 1884 *Just how many* bushels a man will place in an acre.—*Id.*, p. 544. (N.E.D.)

## K

**K.G.C.** Knights of the Golden Circle, an extinct order, which was organized in the South to promote secession by all sorts of methods.

- 1860 Every day strengthens my conviction that the whole K.G.C. enterprise will end in smoke....Gen. Bickley is said to have swindled the young men throughout the South out of about \$40,000, in the way of initiation fees.—*Corr., Charleston Mercury: Richmond Enquirer*, April 20, p. 4/7.
- 1860 They are led by the "Knights of the Golden Circle," whose mystic "K.G.C." has the magic of King Arthur's Horn.—S. S. Cox, 'Eight Years in Congress,' p. 140 (1865).
- 1861 Out of the "Order of the Lone Star" sprung the "Knights of the Golden Circle," whose leader was a *ci-devant* minister, professor, editor, politician, named George W. L. Bickley, a "smart" but unprincipled person.—O. J. Victor, 'History of the Southern Rebellion,' i. 135. [Further particulars follow; see also ii. 375.]

**K.G.C.—contd.**

- 1861 In a note to the *Congressional Globe*, Jan. 23, p. 532, it is stated that the K.G.C. originated in Alabama, under the auspices of Mr. Yancey, the whole purpose being the dismemberment of the Union.

**Kanaka.** A Sandwich-Islander.

- 1840 The *Catalina* had several *Kanakas* on board.—R. H. Dana, 'Before the Mast,' p. 59. (N.E.D.)
- 1846 The natives of the Sandwich Islands (*Kanackas*, as they are called,) are without doubt the most expert watermen in the world.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I saw in California,' p. 303 (Lond., 1849).
- 1857 The Sandwich Islanders—or *Kanakas*, as they are now familiarly known to the sailors and traders.—R. Tomes, 'America in Japan,' p. 140. (N.E.D.)

**Kangaroo court.** A sham trial court, especially one conducted by prisoners.**Katydid.** An insect named for its noise: the *cyrtophyllum concavum*.

- 1800 Owls, crickets, tree frogs, *kittydids* resound.—A. Wilson, 'Poems,' &c. (1876), ii. 346. (N.E.D.)

- 1807 Thou'st seen a member of the insect race,  
Known mostly by its chattering noise,  
—A green-clad wanderer from place to place,  
Yclep'd a *katydid* by boys.

*The Balance*, Jan. 6, p. 8.

- 1816 [These insects are] called also *katy dids*; because one seems to say *Katy did*, and the other to reply *Katy didn't*.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 62 (Boston, 1824).

- 1818 And from each thicket, marsh, and tree  
The cricket, frog, and *Katydee*  
With various notes attend the glee.

'Evening,' by Samuel Woodworth.

- 1820 The measured creaking of the crickets and *catadeds*.—T. Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 11 (Boston).

- 1831 [He was] as busy as a bee, as noisy as a *catydid*, and as merry as a cricket.—J. K. Paulding, 'The Dutchman's Fireside,' i. 69 (Lond.).

- 1838 Even until the morning dawned did a concert of whippoorwills and *catydids* keep up their infernal oratorio.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 214 (N.Y.).

- 1840 His ire was reproved by a pert young *katydid*, whose shrill tones indicated that her wings were only half grown.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Greyslaer,' i. 62 (Lond.).

**Keel, Keel-boat.** See \*1820. These vessels are named in an English Act of 1695. (N.E.D.) But those which were used on the great rivers of the U.S. were much larger. See a note by Dr. (now Sir J. A. H.) Murray in *Notes and Queries*, 9 S. vii. 65, with an account of the *keel* by Mr. R. Oliver Heslop of Newcastle.

**Keel, Keel-boat—contd.**

- 1801 Went down the Mississippi, Jan. 1 to June 30, 1801, "440 flat-boats, 26 *keel boats*, and 7 large canoes."—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 25.
- 1810 The navigation of the Allegheny is easy for boats called *keels*, from 50 to 70 feet long, sharp at both ends, drawing little water.—F. Cuming, 'Tour,' p. 75 (Pittsburgh).
- 1819 James Timon and son advertise for sale "a new *keel boat* about 40 tons burthen."—*St. Louis Enquirer*, Sept. 15.
- 1819 A certificate by Col. Leavenworth for the use of a *keel boat* from Prairie du Chien to the River St. Peter's.—*Id.*, Nov. 13.
- 1820 W. H. Savage advertises for sale "The *Keel Boat Firefly*, about 30 tons burden, 8 poles, one boat-hook, 7 oars."—*Id.*, March 25.
- 1820 The River [Ohio] is navigated by Steam Boats, Barges, *Keel Boats*, Flat Boats or Arks, &c.—*Western Review*, Jan. (Lexington, Ky.).
- 1820 Time, tide, and captains of *keel-boats* know nothing of the solitudes of sentimental travellers.—Hall, 'Letters from the West,' p. 95 (Lond.).
- \*1820 The *keel* is a long, sharp vessel, drawing but little water. When loaded, the hull is nearly all immersed, but there is a deck or roof, about six feet high, covered on all sides so as to exclude the weather, and leaving only a passage of about a foot wide, which is called the running board, along the gunwale, and a small space at the stem and stern.—*Id.*, p. 323.
- 1822 A *keel-boat* was lost in the Missouri a few days since.—*Mass. Spy*, July 10.
- 1823 Two *keel-boats* belonging to general Ashley left St. Louis on the 9th inst. for the Yellow-Stone.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, March 25.
- 1824 Mr. Clay said: "The difference between a nation with and without the arts may be conceived by the difference between a *keel-boat* and a steam-boat, combating the rapid torrent of the Mississippi."—*Mass. Spy*, May 5.
- 1835 *Keel-boats* are one remove from the flat-boat, having some pretensions to a keel.—Ingraham, 'The South-West,' i. 105.
- 1840 A *keel-boat* arrived here on Sunday last, with about thirty Mormons.—*Cincinnati Chronicle*, Aug. 26.
- 1845 He engaged four young emigrants, who were working their passage on the *keel*, to row the skiff to Cincinnati.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' ii. 197.
- 1853 A well-manned little *keel-boat* or pierrogue might have accomplished the voyage.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, June 23.

**Keel over, Keel up.** To upset, to kill.

- 1848 He *keeled one of them over* with an air-gun.—C. W. Webber, 'Old Hicks the Guide,' p. 92 (N.Y.).
- 1856 When we get *keeled up*, that will be the last of us.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' i. 116 (Bartlett).

**Keep a stiff upper lip.** To put on a resolute look.

- 1815 I *kept a stiff upper lip*, and bought [a] license to sell my goods.—*Mass. Spy*, June 14.
- 1833 *Keep a stiff upper lip*; no bones broken.—John Neal, 'The Down Easter,' i. 15.
- 1834 Now let every man *keep a stiff upper lip*.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 16 (1860).
- 1838 They may "*keep a stiff upper lip*," as the saying is; but the game is up.—*Cong. Globe*, p. 34, Appendix. [For fuller quotation see GREATEST AND BEST.]
- 1839 *Keep a stiff upper lip*, and I will use my influence with the Secretary.—C. F. Briggs, 'Harry Franco,' i. 269.
- 1842 We'll all "bust out," some of these days. In the meantime, as they say in domestic French, *Tenez un[e] stiff levre superieure*.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, July 27.
- 1842 The best way is to stand firm on your spindle-shanks and *keep a stiff upper lip*.—*Id.*, Jan. 11.
- 1842       *Keep a stiff upper lip.*  
           Let not the upper border of your mouth  
           Be from its firmest disposition bent.  
   *N.O. Picayune*, May.
- 1842 The Yankees are determined to *keep a stiff upper lip* with the Gothamites.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Jan. 26.
- 1845 *Keep a stiff upper lip*, and you'll bring him this time.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 150.
- 1847 [He told him] to remember to *put on a stiff upper lip* when he went into the school.—D. P. Thompson, 'Locke Amsden,' p. 83 (Boston).
- a.1848 Carry a *stiff upper lip*, a stout heart, &c.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 232.
- 1852 It was *keeping a stiff upper lip* that carried General Jackson through a great many hard trials.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 401 (1860).
- 1853 If fortune frowns, tell her to go to grass; don't let your energy ooze out, but *keep a stiff upper lip*, and go it again.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, April 16.
- 1857 As if, in the old-time phrase, each had resolved to *keep a stiff upper lip*.—D. H. Strother, 'Virginia Illustrated,' p. 163 (N.Y.).

**Keep tab.** To keep a record or memorandum.

- 1888 As [the conductor] did not *keep tab* on the party, Maloney traveled free.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 15 (Farmer).
- 1902 Old Joe begun to miss little dribs o' cash now an' then, an begun to *keep tab* on Jimmy.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 197.
- 1909 It will no doubt please the members of the Legislature to know that the suffragists are "*keeping tab*" in a systematic fashion, . . . of the votes of all members of both houses.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 5.



**Kentuck—contd.**

- 1796 I guess as how you be coming from *Kentuc*.—Isaac Weld, 'Travels through N. America,' p. 135 (1799).
- 1813 In a few years more, those of us who are alive will have to move off to *Kaintuck* or the Mississippi, where corn can be had for sixpence a bushel, and pork for a penny a pound.—John Randolph to Dr. Brockenbrough, June 2: 'Life,' ii. 15 (1851).
- 1823 I entered the city, the far-famed metropolis of *old Kentuck*.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 190.
- 1823 My land (says he) is good, not like that of *old Kentuck*.—*Id.*, p. 204.
- 1826 A "*Kentuck*" is [considered] the best man at a pole, and a Frenchman at the oar.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 15.
- 1826 After all [said he] there is nothing like *old Kentuck*.—*Id.*, p. 214.
- 1828 He is not now disposed to wait for *Old Kentuck*.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Feb. 14, p. 2/2.
- 1834 I asked him if he was not pleased with New York. O yes, said he, it's a *real Kentuck of a place*, a man can do here what he likes.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 190.
- 1850 I have heard the anecdote from Mr. Clay, that a preacher in Kentucky, when speaking of the beauties of Paradise,—when he desired to make his audience believe it was a place of bliss,—said it was a *Kentucky of a place*.—Mr. Stanly of North Carolina, House of Repr., March 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 339. App.
- 1850 Heaven, said a preacher, after exhausting his powers of description, "Heaven is a *real Kentuck sort of a place*."—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxv. 370 (April).
- \* \* \* The same anecdote is told in Timothy Flint's 'Recollections,' 1826, p. 64.

**Kentucky bite.** A wrestling trick (?)

- 1830 It was not difficult to perceive that in the Indian hug or *Kentucky bite* I should stand no chance.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 147.

**Kentucky boat.** An ark or flat-boat.

- 1789 A *Kentuck boat* of 40 feet long will cost about one dollar per foot.—*Mass. Spy*, June 11.
- 1804 Mr. A. M. was descending the Mississippi in a *Kentucky boat*.—*The Balance*, April 10, p. 119.
- 1806 A *Kentuckey boat* is described by Thomas Ashe, 'Travels in America,' i. 167-8 (Lond., 1808).
- 1817 In the course of the day we passed no fewer than thirteen arks, or *Kentucky boats*, going with produce to [New] Orleans.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 198.
- 1824 Those boats called *Kentucky boats*, a sort of huge, square, clumsy wooden box.—John Randolph in Congress, April 15.

**Kentucky pill.** A bullet.

- 1861 Phillips gave him a *Kentucky pill*, and brought the wasps about our ears.—*Harper's Weekly*, Sept. 21.



**Ker.** A prefix intensifying violent action, used exclusively in comic writing. Now and then it has assumed such forms as CA, CO, CHE.

1852 **CO-BIM.** The first blow knocked old S. off his pegs, and into a haystack—*cobim*!—*Olympia Columbian*, Oct. 2: from the *Boston Museum*.

1851 **KER-BIM.** She turned round an' took me *kerbim* right 'tween the eyes. I tell you what, it made me see stars.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 70.

1847 **CO-CHUNK.** *Co chunk*! went Jem into the middle of the floor.—'Chunkey's Fight,' p. 128.

1847 We 'spect you to be right *cochunk* up to the hub on them thar questions.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 31.

1850 We reached the oaks, Colt tried to pass Preacher, Preacher tried to pass Colt, and *cowollop, crosch, cochunk*! we all come down like persimmons arter frost.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 50.

1856 **KER-CHUNK.** He'll put just such fellows as me in the front ranks, where David put Goliath [*sic*], and some of them whistling bullets or singing bombs will take my old gizzard, *kerchunk*.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 42.

1855 **KER-DASH.** The next moment he went *kerdash* in the water.—*Weekly Oregonian*, June 30.

1856 There wan't nobody to hum but her, so I went right in *kerdash*, an' sot down.—*Id.*, Aug. 2.

1858 **KER-DIFF.** He wur plum crazy, an' jumped over the front ov the pulpit, rite inter the pius part ov the kongregation, *kerdiff*.—'Sut Lovengood's Lizards': *Olympia Pioneer*, Feb. 26.

a.1848. **KER-FLUMMUX.** Ere the middle round [of the ladder] be reached, the bottom slips, and down you come *ker-flummux*.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 166.

1856 She got glory tew, an' clapped her hands an' jumped so high that she came deown *ker flummux* on a root.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 2.

1851 **CO-FLUMPUX.** Down she came with a fit of hysterics *co-flumpux* on the floor.—'An Arkansaw Doctor,' p. 83.

1851 **CA-JUNK.** They'd hit pretty close by me, *ca-junk*!—'Adventures of Captain Suggs,' &c., p. 197.

1853 **KA-LUMPUS.** There he goes *kalumpus* right by the big apple tree.—'Captain Priest,' p. 93.

1851 **KER-PLUMPUS.** He cussed nuff to send twenty preachers *ker-plumpus* into h—.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 52.

1899 **KER-SLAM.** Down came the bunch of sacks *kerclam* on the deck below.—F. T. Bullen, 'Way Navy,' p. 52. (N.E.D.)

1853 **KER-SLAP.**

For don't you remember, one evening at supper,

When I was about to say grace,

You picked up a dish full of hissing hot pudding,

And threw it *ker-slap* in my face?

*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Jan. 17.

**Ker**—*contd.*

- 1851 Send him *kerslap* up agin that tree, an' perhaps you'll gin him er headache.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 75.
- 1859 She quickly raised [her hand] on high, and brought it down *kerslap* upon my cheek.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Auraria and Denver, Sept. 3.
- 1875 I fell *kerslap* over a rail that lay in the grass.—'Betsy Bobbet,' p. 99. (N.E.D.)  
KER-SLASH, KER-SLESH, KER-SLOSH, KER-SLUSH.
- 1843 *Kerslash*! I went rite over Miss Stallinses spinnin' wheel onto the floor.—'Major Jones's Courtship' (Farmer).
- 1848 I jerked the ladel, what was already runnin' over, towards the middle spout, when *kerslosh* went the water all over my feet.—'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 64.
- 1851 Thar was one of the etarnalest whollop in' bars cummin crack, crack, through the cane, an' *kerslesh* over the creek, an' stopped right plumb slap up whar Ike's gun was.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 52.
- 1897 Across the lower end of the swamp. . . . back we go *kerslosh-kersplash* for another quarter of a mile.—*Outing*, xxx. 127. (N.E.D.)
- 1843 In he splashed *kerslush*, like a hurt buffalo bull.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 268.
- 1855 KER-SLUNG. *Ker-slung*! he went into the kreek, and I seed the water fly.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, May 12.
- 1850 KER-SOUSE. The dug-out hadn't leaped more'n six lengths from the bank, afore. . . . *ke-souse* I went.—'Americans at Home' (Bartlett).
- 1852 Here lies John Bean, who from a house  
Into a cistern fell *ker-souse*.  
*Knick. Mag.*, xxxix. 109 (Jan.).
- 1844 CA-SPLASH. In I jumps, *ca-splash*.—Joseph C. Neal, 'Peter Ploddy,' &c., p. 179.
- 1857 I went through the air, eend over eend, *ca-splash* into the lake.—S. H. Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 62.
- 1866 KER-SPLOSH. Well, I found a gully at last, and I rolled in *ker-splosh*.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 129.
- 1856 KER-SWALLOP. A dainty pretty face at my elbow burst into tears, and fell down *ker-swallop*, back on the cushions.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 616 (Dec.).
- 1851 KER-SWASH. The fust thing I knowd I went *kerswosh* in the drink.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 152.
- 1848 KER-SWOSH.  
The kiver-hinge-pin bein' lost, tea-leaves an' tea an' kiver  
'Ould all come down *kerswosh*! ez though the dam bust in  
a river. 'Biglow Papers,' No. 8.
- 1836 CHE-WHALLOP. Down I came *chewhallop* right on Deb's bonnet and her fixups, and overset the chair.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, July 27.
- 1852 He goes right *kerwallop* over into the Whig party, and nothing will content him but an appropriation of money.—Mr. Walker of Wisconsin, U.S. Senate, Aug. 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 959, App.

**Ker—contd.****CA-WHOP, KER-WHOP.**

- 1851 Presently Jim come to the ground *ca-whop*!—'Wid Rugby's Husband,' p. 90.
- 1851 He sent him *kerwhop*! about er mile an er feet.—'Pe Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 75.
- 1885 They hoists him over and lets him go *ker-whop*.—J. Run man, 'Skippers and Shellbacks,' p. 85. (N.E.D.)

**Key-log.** A log in a "jam," upon which the coherence of the entire mass depends.

- 1873 Several "drives" often unite; there is generally what is called a "key-log," and by attaching a rope thereto the whole mass is loosened. Climbing over the "jam" hunting for this "key-log," and loosening it, is a most perilous business, as the whole mass often gives way once, and rolls down into the water in a few minutes. J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 719 (Phila., &c)

**Keystone State.** Pennsylvania, as being the seventh among the thirteen original States.

- 1834 The State of Pennsylvania was still sound to the core. She could not be deluded or seduced from her devotion to the Constitution. She was still the *keystone of the Union*, bank or no bank.—Mr. Lytle in the House of Rep., May 2 *Cong. Globe*, p. 408.
- 1840 In this severance and sectioning, what would Pennsylvania that "*arch-stone*" State, say?—Mr. Bynum of N. Carolina the same, Jan. 25: *id.*, p. 263, App.
- 1841 The Federal party have obtained a temporary ascendency in the legislature of the renowned and venerable *Keystone State*, Pennsylvania.—Mr. McRoberts of Illinois, U. Senate, Aug. 13: *id.*, p. 313, App.
- 1844 I call upon our friends from the *Keystone State* not to surrender.—Mr. Saunders of N. Carolina, House of Rep. Jan. 23: *id.*, p. 86, App.
- 1844 The old *Keystone* has never furnished the Union with either President or Vice-President, and it causes her to feel badly.—Mr. Bidlack of Pennsylvania, the same, June 1: *id.*, p. 662, App.
- 1846 Pennsylvania is the *keystone* of the great Democratic arch. Break her down, and the arch will crumble to dust and vanish.—Mr. Blanchard of Pa., the same, June 29: *id.*, p. 1006, App.
- 1847 Mr. Chipman of Michigan had heard it said that the Executive had not paid the attention to Pennsylvania in making his appointments, which the *Keystone State* was entitled to.—The same, Feb. 8: *id.*, p. 323, App.
- 1853 Those ever-blessed Relief Notes, which our great sister State, the *Keystone*, so long paid her debts with.—'Facts and Earnest,' p. 215 (N.Y.).
- 1861 The "*Keystone State*" was first in the field.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' i. 162.

**Kick.** To object, to make a fuss.

1799 Dennis complained, and Grove *kicked*, but 'twas all to no purpose.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Feb. 13.

1842 [Members of Congress] *kicked* against receiving any more petitions.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Jan. 1.

1857 I have to live under their laws, and when they take a notion to swear away my character, I mustn't *kick*.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 69.

1881 See BACKBONE.

1888 The tariff is of no good to [the colored man]. But that is not what he *kicks* about.—*N.Y. Herald*, July 29 (Farmer).

**Kick.** An objection, a complaint.

1839 I have been taking julips, and a little saffern tea,  
And from the lurid weather I lie in bed, you see;  
My spirit now is languid, and funny is my snore,  
So take the hint without a *kick*, and shut the open door.

*Chemung* (N.Y.) *Democrat*, Dec. 25.

1909 "There's no *kick* coming on this, stranger," said one wiry, dark-haired fellow.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 15.

**Kicker.** A grumbler, an objector.

1888 He who takes his own course is a *kicker* or bolter.—Bryce, 'American Commonwealth,' ii. 459. (N.E.D.)

**Kilter, out of.** Out of order.

1643 Their Gunnes they . . . often sell . . . to the English, when they are a little *out of frame or kelter*.—R. Williams, 'Key Lang. Amer.,' p. 177. (N.E.D.)

a.1657 Ye very sight of [a gun], though *out of kilter*, was a terroure unto them.—Bradford, 'Plymouth Plantation' (1856), p. 235. (N.E.D.)

1681 The seats some burned and others *out of kilter*.—*New England Mag.* (1898), p. 450. (N.E.D.)

a.1848 I can't crowd it into my narrow belief that Paul's mental machinery was any ways *out of kilter*.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 82.

a.1852 —Till it wears out, or gets *out of kelter* by some fatal accident.—*Id.*, iii. 8.

1856 [It] won't be long afore it'll be *out o' kilter* everywhere.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 5.

1856 If the doctors should find something broke loose, or a flue split, or anything *out of kilter*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlviii. 407 (Oct.).

**Kinder, kind of.** Rather, somewhat.

1830 I was *kind of* provoked at the way you came up.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 6.

1834 This *kinder* corner'd me, and made me a little wrathful.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 90.

1835 He looked *kind of* stumpt. I bid him good-bye.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 142 (Phila.).

1836 She looked a *kind o'* slantindicular at him, and I think he kissed her.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, July 27.

**Kinder, kind of—contd.**

- 1846 I thought you looked like a squire—*kind of*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxviii. 144 (Aug.).
- 1847 I confess that your ideas, which are new to me, look *kinder* reasonable.—D. P. Thompson, 'Locke Amsden,' p. 18 (Boston).
- 1848 I feel *kinder* sorry for the poor critter, arter all.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxii. 408 (Nov.).
- 1853 Very naturally we were *kind of* cornered.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Feb. 16.
- 1854 We know our rights, I just *kinder* rather think.—*Knick. Mag.*, xliii. 46 (Jan.).
- 1862 It's *kinder* dull up here, but I couldn't sleep.—*Harper's Weekly*, June 7.
- 1879 I guess the cold weather'll *kinder* brace you up, so to speak, as it were.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. xxi.
- 1890 They *kinder* suspicioned from my looks that I had found good prospects.—Haskins, 'Argonauts of Cal.,' p. 250.

**King-ball, King's ball.** See quot. 1851.

- 1833 [He] spent his time in cultivating his crop, smoking his pipe, attending the *king-balls*, and playing the fiddle. [This was a Frenchman on the Mississippi, ab. 1750.].—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 153 (Phila.).
- 1851 A *king's ball*?—Ah, you have not heard. Certain of the youngsters, at every yearly winter's ball of the neighborhood, are presented with bouquets by the ladies who have been crowned queens of the festivities then concluding; and each bouquet presentee is crowned king of the next year's ball.—A. Oakey Hall, 'Manhattaner in N. Orleans,' p. 122. [See also PAT-GOE.]

**King-bird.** A species of fly-catcher, also called the Bee-martin.

- 1801 Now he has a number of them picking at him, just as a parcel of *King-birds* will pick at a Crow.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 25.
- 1821 [Birds of prey] are few in number. The *King-Bird* or Bee-eater is an over-match for any of them.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 53.
- 1858 If ever you saw a crow with a *king-bird* after him, you will get an image of a dull speaker and a lively listener.—'Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table,' chap. ii.

**King-pin.** The central object, on which others depend.

- 1895 [He] believed cataloguing to be the *king-pin* of the library system.—*Library Journal*, p. 202. (N.E.D.)
- 1910 This *kingpin* of lobbyists is William H. Buckley, a little man with a shifting eye.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, March 28.

**Kink.** A twist, a knot; a crotchet; a device; an entanglement Apparently of Sc. origin.

- 16..At which the factour takes a *kink* of laughing.—Robert Wodrow, 'Analecta,' i. 265 (1842).
- 1812 Adair too had his *kink*. He believed all the Indians of America to be descended from the Jews.—Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, June 11, from Monticello.

**Kink**—*contd.*

- 1825 I was only shifting the collar, sir. It galls the poor dog. . . . Perhaps we can get out the *kink*.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 397.
- 1825 There! There! That's a new *kink*! I told you so.—*Id.*, iii. 291.
- 1839 If there is a sufficiency [of material for porkers], it is known by an extra *kink* of the tail.—*Farmer's Monthly Visitor*, i. 12 (Concord, N.H.).
- 1843 He has taken a *kink* into his head that he will not go.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase' (Bartlett).
- 1845 O! think! think! think  
What a wonderful *kink*  
The Gentiles have got in!  
*The Prophet*, N.Y., March 29.  
[The allusion is to the Onderdonk scandal.]
- 1846 *Steamer St. Anthony*. This new boat is coming out with several new "*kinks*" about her, as the river men say.—*St. Louis Reveille*, May 18.
- 1848 Come! wake up, and shake the *kinks* out of your land legs.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 82.
- 1853 Our minds are cramped by the study of these old mummy languages, and if they get a *kink* in the training, they can never be straightened.—*Id.*, xix. 9.
- 1855 Now a Yankee was never born or bred  
Without that peculiar *kink* in his head  
By which he could turn the smallest amount  
Of whatever he had to the best of account.  
*Knicker. Mag.*, xlv. 338 (April).
- 1857 You were as well as I am, excepting that *kink* in your head about your going to die.—Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 65.
- 1857 When he straightens up, and takes the *kinks* out of him, he stands six feet and over in his stockings.—*Id.*, p. 93.
- 1862 I told the kernel that, when he got niggers to immigrate, the next thing . . . would be to get the *kinks* out of their hair.—Major Jack Downing, 'Letters,' Aug. 14.
- 1863 [Powdering the hair is] a capital *kink* for red-haired, mouse-colored, and greyish-haired girls to take advantage of.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, March 19.
- 1869 The fact is, when a woman gets a *kink* in her head agin a man, the best on us don't allers do jest the right thing.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Old-town Stories' ('Sullivan Looking-glass').
- 1875 I mistrust she thought the wind would take the *kink* out of her frizzles.—'Betsy Bobbet,' p. 273 (Bartlett).
- 1877 There is another financial *kink*, in case of the bonds of St. Charles County.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 16 (the same).
- 1888 Activity in the pursuit of pleasure soon set the little *kinks* free [on the negroes' heads], and each hair stood on tiptoe, joining in a jig of its own.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 235.
- a.1894 They kin see that she's not a nigger, for her hair don't *kink*.—F. Bret Harte, 'A Pupil of Chestnut Ridge.'

**Kinked, Kinky.** Twisted in knots.

1801 [Daines Barrington denies that the turkey is a native of America ;] and the arguments he produces are such as none but a head, entangled and *kinked* as his is, would ever have urged.—Tho. Jefferson to Dr. Williamson, Jan. 10. (N.E.D.)

1844 [The negro's] skull is as thick, his hair is as *kinkey*, his nose as flat, his lips as large, his shin as crooked, his heel as long, his foot as flat, and his skin as black, as they were the day he was first introduced.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 6 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 42, App.

1866 Since your proclamation, his face has turned darker, and his hair more *kinky*.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 29.

**Kinky-headed.** With hair knotted.

1848 The *kinky-headed* cus looked at me sideways, and rolled the whites of his eyes at me like he was gwine to have a fit of hidryfoby.—'Major Jones's Sketches of Travel,' p. 146.

**Kinnikinnic[k].** See quot. 1817, 1823, 1890.

1799 *Killegenico*, or dry sumach leaves, which they mix with their tobacco.—J. Smith, 'Acc. Remark. Occurr' (1870), p. 16. (N.E.D.)

1817 I observed that they did not make use of tobacco, but the bark of *Cornus sanguinea*, or red dog wood, mixed with the leaves of *Rhus glabra*, or smooth sumach. This mixture they call *kinnikineck*.—John Bradbury, 'Travels in America,' p. 91. (N.E.D.)

1823 The *Kinnecanick*, or, as the Omawhaws call it, *Ninnegahe*, mixed or made tobacco, is composed partly of tobacco, and partly of the leaves of the sumach (*rhus glabrum*).—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Exped.,' i. 331 (Phila.).

1827 *Kinnikannic*, a kind of fragrant weed that has a leaf like our boxwood, and is gathered from a vine.—Tho. L. McKenney, 'Tour of the Lakes,' p. 180 (Balt.).

1830 Great quantities of dried venison, salmon, and *kinnicanick* were packed on horses.—T. Flint, 'The Shoshonee Valley,' ii. 8 (Cincinnati).

1830 He drew his *kinnakinnick* from a pouch.—*Id.*, ii. 32.

1839 [The Indian Chief] smokes the article called *kanikanik*,—a mixture of tobacco and the dried leaves of the poke plant (*Phytolacca decandra*).—J. K. Townsend, 'Narrative,' p. 31.

1846 Mixed tobacco and *kinnekiniek* (the name, if spelt aright, of an Indian bark frequently used for smoking).—*Knick. Mag.*, xxvii. 209 (March).

1864 Perchance [your chum] may be laying in a supply of *killickinick*, Big Lick, Turkish, or Shanghai.—Advt., *Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxix. (April).

1866 Calmly and coolly we smoked our *killikinick*.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 86.

1890 *Kinni-kinnic* is a mixture of willow bark, sumach leaves, sage-leaf, and tobacco, and this is thoroughly mingled with marrow from buffalo-bones, [and used by the Indians for smoking].—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 101.



**Kissing-bee.**

- 1853 [He was about] to shave and dress for a "party" or "*kissing-bee*."—'Turnover: a Tale of N. Hampshire,' p. 6.

**Kittereen.** A kind of covered vehicle. The word has been claimed as of Cornish origin, in connexion with the name of one Christopher or Kit Treen.

- 1792 In 1787 were exported Chaises 40, *Kittareens* 10, Sulkeys 7.—'Descr. of Kentucky,' p. 42. (N.E.D.)  
 1794 He undertakes to make and repair....coachees, chaises, *kittereens*, &c.—Advt., *Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Jan. 6.

**Knee-high to a bantam, to a duck, to a toad, &c.** A ludicrous description indicating short stature.

- 1824 He has lived with me ever since he was "*knee high to a musquitoe*."—Letter to *The Microscope*, Albany, N.Y., June 12, p. 55/1.  
 1833 A bit of a rogue he was too, when he wan't more'n *knee-high to a bumbly-bee*.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 78.  
 1841 He has been known in the Congaree ever since I was *knee high to a splinter*.—W. G. Simms, 'The Kinsmen,' ii. 63 (Phila.).  
 a.1853 To see little saplings, some of them scarce *knee-high to a milkstool*,—"bigger b'hoys," green as unsunned pumpkins, &c.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 115.  
 1854 I have been acquainted with them, ever since I was *knee-high to a huckleberry*.—'Fern Leaves,' p. 358 (Auburn, N.Y.).  
 1856 A poor leetle brat of a boy, *knee-high to a young turkey*.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 248 (N.Y.).  
 1856 A brat of a boy, *knee-high to a bantam*.—*Id.*, p. 249.  
 1856 There is not an urchin, *knee-high to a cock-sparrow*, but will tell you that the first blow is always half of the battle.—*Id.*, p. 530.  
 1860 I have been a constant reader since I was *knee-high to a grasshopper*.—*Knick. Mag.*, lvi. 329 (Sept.).  
 1861 I haven't been poking into key-holes since I was *knee-high to a katydid* for nothing.—Theodore Winthrop, 'Cecil Dreeme,' p. 128 (N.Y., 1876).  
 1862 The kite fever is raging here at present. In one part of town you'll see a chap with a mammoth kite flying zenith-ward; while in another place you'll see a six year shaver with a miniature edition, flying not *knee-high to a toad*.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, May 10.  
 a.1894 I ain't bin inside a schoolhouse since I was *knee-high to a grasshopper*.—F. Bret Harte, 'A Pupil of Chestnut Hill.'  
 1899 One of the men said that he had known Jerry since he was *knee-high ter a duck*.—Mary N. Murfree, 'The Bush-whackers.'  
 1904 I know'd 'im when he wasn't *kneehigh to a duck*.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 89.

**Knees.** See quot. 1826, 1837.

- 1774 Red cedar in logs, posts, and *knees*.—Advt., *Newport Mercury*, Oct. 10.
- 1799 Wanted immediately, White Oak *Knees* [of specified sizes].—Advt., *Mass. Mercury*, Oct. 25.
- 1821 [The swamps are] rendered almost impenetrable by a dense growth of cypress and *cypress knees* (the latter of which are conical excrescences springing from the roots of the cyprus [*sic*] and shooting up in profusion to the height of eight or ten feet).—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Exped.,' ii. 343 (Phila., 1823).
- 1826 The water is a vast and dead level, two or three feet deep, still leaving the innumerable *cypress "knees,"* as they are called, resembling circular bee-hives, throwing their points above the waters.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 262.
- 1837 [This passage is] filled with logs and protuberances from the roots of the trees, called "*knees*," which rise nearly or quite to the surface of the water.—Report of Capt. Guion, Jan. 17: *Cong. Globe*, 1842, p. 345, App.
- 1837 *Cypress knees* are hollow cones, which rise from the roots of the cypress tree, from one to six feet high, and terminate in a blunt point.—John L. Williams, 'Territory of Florida,' p. 89 (N.Y.).
- 1838 [The pony] deposited me among the *cypress-knees* in the swamp.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 131.
- 1850 The path appeared to cease at a clear, deep, narrow "slough," full of *cypress "knees,"* which did not come to the surface, but seemed some few inches under.... The proximity of the "*knees*" to the surface was no illusion.—'Odd Leaves,' pp. 93, 97.

**Knife.** To cut (literally).

- 1910 A Shipload of Restlessness. 700 Hindus, Filipinos, and Chinese *Knifed* Each Other Across Pacific.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 31.

**Knife.** To assail politically in an underhand way.

- 1888 This threat to *knife* any other candidate is based on the highest authority.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 24 (Farmer).
- 1892 The idea is to *knife* Moise for Congress.—*Boston Journal*, Nov. 5. (N.E.D.)
- 1909 [Mr. Hughes] thrives on ambushades, pitfalls, and *knifings*. When the bosses call him dead, he begins to feel how young he is.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 15.
- 1909 Whether or not Hearst met Murphy, whether or not Gaynor met McCarren—one thing stands out quite clearly in this unparalleled campaign of secret meetings and dealings and *knifings*, and that is that there is one man running for the office of Mayor of New York city whom no one has accused, or can accuse, of having met anybody, bargained with anybody, or *knifed* anybody in order to put himself into office.—*Id.*, Oct. 28.

**Knob.** A rocky mound.

- 1791 The surface of the land [is] uneven, occasioned by natural mounds or rocky knobs.—W. Bartram, 'Carolina,' p. 338. (N.E.D.)
- 1834 At last a few short hills, here [in Illinois] called "*knobs*," indicated our approach to Fever River.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 300 (Lond., 1835).
- 1834 We were now entering what is called the *knobs* of Kentucky.—*Id.*, ii. 169.
- 1835 Singular ranges of limestone hills, surmounted by what are called "*flint knobs*."—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' i. 154.
- 1846 I am told that there is a great difference "before and after meat," or rather fish, among the people of the sterile *knobs* along the Potomac river.—Mr. Cathcart of Indiana, House of Repr., Feb. 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 322.

**Knock.** To excel. **Knocker.** One that excels.

- 1853 He "*knocked*" all the adjacent male population, native and imported, in the matter of looks.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 55 (July).
- 1888 Neat, clean-cut, effective, and plump, her figure was a *knocker*.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, April 29 (Farmer).

**Knock down.** To embezzle.

- 1882 The driver of a stage....had frequent opportunities of "*knocking down*," or appropriating a modest sum to his own use.—McCabe, 'New York,' p. 158. (N.E.D.)

**Knock spots out of.** To beat soundly. The phrase may have originated in the practice of using cards as targets in pistol-shooting.

- 1861 I wish I had control of chain lightning for a few minutes; I'd make it come thick and heavy, and *knock spots out of Secession*.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 747.

**Knot hole.** A hole in timber, formerly filled by a knot.

- 1726 I found one great leak, which was a *Knot Hole*.—G. Roberts, 'Voyage,' p. 284. (N.E.D.)
- 1824 The little fellow's eyes were as big as a large *knot hole*.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 8.
- 1833 [They would] worry and fret a feller's soul into a *knot-hole*.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' ii. 82.
- 1833 Mrs. Judith had applied her ear to the key-hole, or rather to the *knot-hole*, for other there was none.—*Id.*, ii. 96.
- 1847 [He was] looking as tired as a rat that had been drawn through forty *knot-holes*.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 250 (1860).
- 1857 He got [a birch bark bucket] completed, and found a *knot-hole* in the bottom.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 499 (Nov.).
- 1861 As soon as I shut the door, I looked back through a *knot hole*.—*Id.*, lviii. 505 (Dec.).

**Know one from . . . .**

- 1836 I inquired if he knew him. He assured me he didn't *know him from a side of sole leather*.—'A Quarter Race in Kentucky,' p. 23 (1846).

**Know-nothings, Know-nothingism.** The Know-nothings were a political party, 1853-1859, who called themselves "the American party," but usually said they knew nothing of its organization.

- 1854 A few thoughts on *Know-Nothingism*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xx. 12-16.
- 1854 Is there any party, faction, or segment of a party, except that misguided and proscriptive faction called "Native Americans" or "*Know-Nothings*," who have the hardihood . . . to propose to repeal the naturalization laws of the U.S. ?—Mr. Dodge of Iowa, U.S. Senate, July 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1667.
- 1854 The origin and character of *Know-nothingism* were discussed at length by Mr. Barry of Mississippi, House of Repr., Dec. 18: *id.*, pp. 53-60. App.
- 1855 The *know-nothings* of the great States are sound on the slavery question.—*New York Herald*, May 21.
- 1855 A matron of Portland (no matter what street)  
Fell into a wondrous excitement of late,  
A neighbor, at midnight, had told her that Hodge,  
Her husband, had gone to a *Know-nothing* lodge.  
*Oregon Weekly Times*, June 2.
- 1855 Farmers! did *you* get up *Know-Nothingism*? No. It was got up amongst "stove-pipe hats" and patent black leather shoes.—*Id.*, June 16.
- 1855 *Know-nothing-ism* in its hideous deformity now stands unmasked in Cincinnati.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, n.d.
- 1856 Washington is at this time governed by the *Know Nothings*.—Olmsted, 'Slave States,' p. 15. (N.E.D.)
- 1862 A secret organization . . . named *Know-Nothing-ism* or *Sammyism*, from the boasted exclusive devotion of the fraternity to the U.S.—'True Delta,' N. Orleans, May 6: quoted in Parton's 'Butler in N.O.,' p. 299.

**Know-ye.** The allusion is uncertain.

- 1787 See SHAYITES.
- 1789 Unless the iniquity of the "*Know ye*" gentry should be speedily filled up, Rhode Island will remain estranged from her sister States.—*Am. Museum*, v. 329.
- 1789 (Feb.) "A *Know-ye* Rhode-Islander" figures in a pasquinade by Benjamin Russell.—J. T. Buckingham, 'Specimens of Newspaper Lit.,' ii. 55.

**Ku Klux.** The Ku Klux Klan was a powerful secret organization, formed in the Southern States after their reconstruction, to defeat the plans of the "carpet-baggers," and to keep the negroes from voting. A well-written article on the subject will be found in *The Century Magazine*, July, 1884.

**Ku Klux—contd.**

- 1879 Whenever it was known that a prisoner intended taking the oath (and it was very difficult to conceal the matter from his tent mates) a party would proceed to his tent the night previous, call him out, and administer a severe flogging. They even went so far as to clip off the ears of one. Of course the parties who did this work were completely disguised. Thus it will be seen that *Kuklux* existed at Point Lookout before it did in South Carolina.—*Prison Experience*, No. 2: 'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' vii. 396 (Richmond, Va.).
- 1888 The personal insecurity of the *Ku Klux* era made the country sadly familiar, &c.—*Phila. Bulletin*, Feb. 27 (Farmer).
- 1908 A confession has been obtained from a ring-leader [of the night-riders], and there is every reason to believe that this revival of the *Ku-Klux* will come to a speedy end in Tennessee.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 29.

**L**

**Lady-bug.** A lady-bird. The word is found in Grose, 1787: N.E.D.

- 18.. The *Lady-Bug* sat in the rose's heart.—Lydia H. Sigourney.
- 1848 [The flamingo] drinks nothing but port wine, and is partial to *lady-bugs*.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 115.
- 1910 Los Angeles, April 1.—Millions of *ladybugs* are receiving free transportation on the railroads from the State Insectary at Sacramento to the melon fields of the Imperial valley. Three consignments have passed through Los Angeles en route to El Centro, and other valley points, where they will be turned loose to browse upon aphides and other insect pests that harm the melon crops. There are on hand in the insectary at Sacramento 52,000,000 *ladybugs*, weighing in the aggregate more than a ton. These are to be distributed free among farmers who apply for them.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 4.

**Lafayette fish.** See quot. 1859.

- 1843 He had caught a small carful of striped bass and *Lafayette fish*.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 266.
- 1859 *Lafayette fish* (*Leiostomus obliquus*), a delicious sea fish, which appears in the summer in great abundance on the Jersey coast....[The name] was given it on account of its appearance one summer coinciding with the last visit of General Lafayette to America (Bartlett).

**Lagniappe.** See quot.

- 1853 A dubious note that he had received as a "*lanyappe*." (*Anglice*, boot money.)—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 47.

**Lambkill.** See quotations : *Kalmia angustifolia*.

- 1832 The *Lambkill* has been called mountain Laurel, Spoonwood, Ivy, and Calico Bush. Its wood is dense and hard.—Williamson, 'Hist. of Maine,' i. 116.  
 1851 Rose-blooming *lambkill*.—S. Judd, 'Margaret' (1871), p. 90. (N.E.D.)

**Land-grabber.** One who voraciously acquires land.

- 1860 Is not John Bell an outrageous *land-grabber*?—*Richmond Enquirer*, Aug. 7, p. 1/7.  
 1861 Railroad grants, to place large quantities of public land in the hands of robbers and *land-grabbers*.—Mr. Thomas Ruffin of N. Carolina, House of Repr., Feb. 20 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 226/2, App.

**Land office.** An office for the allotment of government land.

**Land office money.** A legal tender in payment for the same.

- 1681-1794. Mr. Albert Matthews of Boston furnishes examples : *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. xii. 415-16. And I am indebted to him for 1755, 1759, 1774, 1779.  
 1755 A few Days after I had obeyed his Ldp's Instructions by issuing a Commission to Mr. Calvert & Doctor Steuart as Joint Judges of the *Land Office*, they both came and presented me the inclosed Acct. of the Annual Income of Fees to the *Land Office*.—Gov. Sharpe of Maryland, April 19 : 'Correspondence,' i. 193.  
 1759 Mr. Peters....acquainted the Governor and Council that there were very few loose papers in the *land Office* serviceable to any Man's titles.—'Penna. Colonial Records,' viii. 337 : May 28.  
 1774 Letters from London, by way of South Carolina, mention that the *land offices* in North-America will be opened again.—*Mass. Gazette*, March 7.  
 1774 The *Land Office* is not yet open for taking up Vacant Lands in the Lower Counties.—'Penna. Col. Records,' x. 208 : Sept. 15.  
 1775 On what terms lands are to be had now, since the shutting up the *land office*, is yet impossible to tell.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 194.  
 1779 A letter from the President of Congress was read, enclosing a resolve against opening *Land Offices*.—'Penna. Col. Records,' xii. 160 : Nov. 5.  
 1779 An Act for establishing a *Land office*, and ascertaining the terms and manner of granting waste and unappropriated lands.—'Virginia Statutes,' May.  
 1789 May 28. Mr. Scott moved that the House now resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the subject of the *Land Office*....Mr. Boudinot moved that the words "*Land Office*" be struck out.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, N.Y., May 30.

**Land office money—contd.**

- 1790 It seems requisite that a general *land-office* should be established at the seat of government.—Alex. Hamilton, 'Works,' vii. 48. (N.E.D.)
- 1812 In the early part of 1812, a *land office* was located [on the Wabash].—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 38 (N.Y., 1838).
- 1841 In 1820, we made a state bank; and to make its issues the more acceptable as a circulating medium, a resolution was offered, requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to make it *land office money*. Col. Menard (originally a French Canadian) had been very much opposed to the creation of this bank without a specie capital. [So he] said in his broken English, "Gentlemen, as it is your wish, and it is my duty, I will put the question; but I bet any man fifty dollars he no made *land office money*."—Mr. Young of Illinois, U.S. Senate, Feb. 1: *Cong. Globe*, p. 103, App.

**Land office business.** At a time when the land offices were fully occupied, this phrase came to mean a rushing business.

- 1882 [The Company] once did a *land office business* in ore-crushing.—Report to the House of Representatives, p. 153. (N.E.D.)
- 1909 Theatres did no unusual business, but picture shows, which are quickly emptied and filled, reported *land office business*.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 11.

**Land-scrip.** U.S. certificates representing land.

- 1862 There is no railroad company that has a roving commission, that has the right to locate *land scrip*.... Those who locate this *land scrip* have unlimited scope.... I think this *land scrip* will be valuable.—Mr. Samuel C. Pomeroy of Kas., U.S. Senate, June 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 2628/1.
- 1864 Webster's Dictionary. (N.E.D.)

**Land-shark.** A land-grabber.

- 1841 [Should he] forfeit his right to become the purchaser of this tract of land, in preference to any hungry *land shark* who was ready to pounce upon it?—Mr. Buchanan of Pa., U.S. Senate, Jan. 5: *Cong. Globe*, p. 26, Appendix.
- 1841 The hardy pioneer, the actual settler, and the *land-shark*, the speculator, must [alike] pay this amount.—Mr. Hunt of N.Y., House of Representatives, Feb. 22: *id.*, p. 370, App.

**Land-slide, Land-slip.** This expression is used literally; also, metaphorically, of an overwhelming defeat at the polls.

- 1838 On the 10th ult., the city of Natchez was thrown into consternation by a *landslide*.—*The Jeffersonian*, Albany, March 10.
- 1838 The settlers [on the Mississippi] are often startled from their sleep by the deep, sullen crash of a *land-slip*.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 82 (N.Y.).



**Land-slide, Land-slip—contd.**

- 1856 Slain by a *land-slide*, like the agricultural King Onund.—Emerson, 'Eng. Traits,' iv. 65. (N.E.D.)
- 1862 When the *land-slide* [at Goldau] took place, . . . it buried the beautiful village.—Mr. W. D. Kelley of Pa., House of Repr., May 21 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 2272/1.

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- 1895 There was a great *landslide* of votes to McClellan.—*Century Mag.*, p. 734. (N.E.D.)
- 1908 At some of the playhouses actors will appear during the intermissions, and announce something like : "Mr. Taft has carried Alabama by 100,000," or "a Massachusetts *landslide* gives Mr. Bryan 200,000 votes."—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Nov. 2.
- 1910 They have not always spared even Pennsylvania. In the two famous "*landslides*" of 1882 and 1890, the Democrats carried that rock-ribbed stronghold by majorities of 40,000 and 16,000.—*Id*, March 21.

**Land's sake, the.** The substitution of "Land" for "Lord," to avoid the appearance of profanity, goes back as far as Ben Jonson (1614), who in his 'Bartholomew Fair' introduces that notable character, "Zeal-of-the-land Busy."

- 1846 Jedediah, *for the land's sake*, does my mouth blaze ?—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxvii. 18 (Jan.).
- 1849 "Why are they called turnpikes ?" "*The land knows—I don't.*"—Miss Warner, 'Wide Wide World,' chap. xiv. (N.E.D.)
- 1854 The fat lady at first says "Good *land* !" and then inquires of the fidgety man if he was hurt.—*Putnam's Mag.*, iii. 85 (Jan.).
- 1888 *Land sakes* ! That poor cretur never had the spunk to kill himself.—*Harper's Weekly*, Jan. 21 (Farmer).
- 1896 *The land knows* they talk a plenty even without givin' 'em anything to talk about.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 81.

**Lapstreak.** A clinker-built boat.

- 1771 Whale-boats and all sorts of *Lapstreak Boats*.—Advt., *Boston-Gazette*, March 11.
- 1860 Two boats. . . . Long, graceful *lapstreaks*, roomy and stiff, yet light.—*All the Year Round*, p. 587. (N.E.D.)

**Last ditch, the.**

- a.1715 There was a sure way never to see it lost, and that was to die in *the last ditch*.—Burnet, 'Own Time,' i. 457. (N.E.D.)
- 1800 [This] is now *the last ditch* of argument in which the federals take refuge.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Dec. 8.
- 1821 Thomas Jefferson. (N.E.D.)

**Last nail in coffin.**

- 1881 Whenever you determine to assail these men, you drive *the last nail in your political coffin*.—S. W. Dorsey to J. A. Garfield, Feb. 7 : *Sunday Gazette*, Aug. 13, 1882,

**Latch.** Some appurtenance of a tan-yard.

- 1799 Advt. of a tan-yard at Burlington, N.J., including "2 latches, 4 handlers and limes, pools and bates equivalent."  
—*The Aurora*, Phila., Jan. 30. [A *bate* is a vat of lye; *handlers* are pits in which hides are handled; *limes*, probably lime-pits.]

**Late unpleasantness.** The civil war.

- 1868 That cuss cum back here, doorin' *the late onpleasantniss*, kernel of a rigiment.—David R. Locke, 'Ekkoes from Kentucky,' p. 23 (Boston).  
1888 The Louisiana Tigers, a corps of sharpshooters during *the late unpleasantness*. — *Chicago Inter-Ocean*, March 7. (Farmer).

**Law-abiding.** Obedient to the law.

- 1839 Being a law-loving and *law-abiding* man, he had voted to preserve the laws.—Mr. Shepard of N. Carolina, House of Repr., Dec. 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 14, App.  
1846 The Presbyterians in Carolina have ever been a law-loving, *law-abiding* people.—W. H. Foote, 'Sketches of N. Carolina,' p. 124 (N.Y.).  
1848 This most polite and *law-abiding* mob backed out, and nullified its own resolution.—Mr. Wick, of Indiana House of Repr., April 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 667.  
1849 Daniel Webster says you are a *law-abiding* people; that the glory of New England is that it is a *law-abiding* community.—Speech of Wendell Phillips, May: quoted April 8, 1850, *id.*, p. 459, App.  
1850 I believe the Rio Grande is the boundary, and every *law-abiding* man who thinks it is will be bound so to regard it.—Mr. McLane of Maryland, House of Repr., Aug. 10: *id.*, p. 1120, App.  
1850 I supposed that one characteristic upon which we plumed ourselves was that we were a *law-abiding* people.—Mr. Cass of Michigan, U.S. Senate, Aug. 20: *id.*, p. 1593, App.  
1855 The people of Oregon are a *law-abiding*, honest, and gallant people.—Mr. Joseph Lane of Oregon, House of Repr., Jan. 26: *id.*, p. 416.  
1861 We're *lor-abidin'* folks down here, we'll fix ye so 's 't a bar Wouldn' tech ye with a ten-foot pole; (Jedge, you jest warm the tar.) 'Biglow Papers,' 2nd S., No. 1.  
1867 E. A. Freeman. (N.E.D.)  
1878 He gave his solemn assurance that the Saints were a *law-abiding* people.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 529.  
1910 With us, the mere custom of carrying a revolver leads to many a crime that would otherwise never have been thought of or committed. How shall it be stopped? That is the question for *law-abiding* people everywhere to consider.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 24.

**Lawful, lawful money.** Three-quarters of sterling money.

- 1771 At the rate of Fifteen Hundred Sterling or Two Thousand L.M. per Ann.—*Boston-Gazette*, Oct. 7.
- 1774 Pomade, "price 3s. L.M. per pot"; tooth-powder, "2/6 L.M. per bottle," advertised in *The Newport Mercury*, Sept. 5.
- 1774 A thousand pound (*lawful*, a fourth less than sterling.)—W. Gordon, 'Hist. Am. Revol.,' i. 413 (Lond., 1788).
- 1778 It takes....fifty pounds *lawful* for a hundred of sugar, and fifty dollars for a hundred of flour.—A. Adams, 'Fam. Letters,' (1876), p. 343. (N.E.D.)
- 1783 In George Washington's account, the total is stated as "£.19,306. 11. 9 *lawful money* of Virginia, the same as the Massachusetts, or £.14,479. 18. 9½ sterling."

**Lay.** Price; terms; salary.

- 1712 [It] shall be sold....at the same *lay* as the residue of the land.—'Connecticut Col. Records' (1870), v. 333. (N.E.D.)
- 1775 Provided there can be more built at an easier *lay* in the country by the company.—'New Hampshire Prov. Papers' (1873), vii. 425. (N.E.D.)
- 1792 [I am going to Africa as] Land Surveyor General, on a pretty good *lay*.—B. Marston, 'New England Hist. and Geneal. Register' (1873), xxvii. 399. (N.E.D.)
- 1816 He bought a large drove [of cattle] at a good *lay*.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 4: from *The Connecticut Courier*.
- 1853 A few months saw him handling the ropes upon a whaler, at a good *lay*.—'Captain Priest,' p. 49.

**Lay off or out.** To define, usually by a map or plan, sometimes by staking the ground.

- 1748 This Morning began our Intended business of *Laying of* [*sic*] Lots.—G. Washington, 'Journal,' March 30. (N.E.D.)
- 1797 I have [expressed] my admiration of the American mode of *laying out* their new towns....in straight lines.—Fra. Baily, F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 226 (Lond., 1856).
- 1842 [They answer] that the State Legislatures must *lay off* and prescribe the districts in their respective States.—Mr. Wright of N.Y., U.S. Senate, May 3: *Cong. Globe*, p. 467, App.
- 1850 In *laying off* a State, one thing should always be regarded, that you include in it, if you can, all the means of subsistence.—Mr. Thurston of Oregon, House of Repr., March 25: *id.*, p. 347, App.

**Lay out.** To reduce to helplessness.

- 1829 I want to *lay out* [this candidate] as cold as a wedge.—*Mass. Spy*, July 22: from *The Savannah Mercury*.
- 1850 Gentlemen of the South, you have us in your power. All I ask is that, after you have *laid us out* cold, you will not point us out as having been bought dog-cheap.—Mr. Hale of N. Hampshire, U.S. Senate, April 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 759. [The allusion is to John Randolph's famous taunt.]
- 1885 Old Tecumseh and myself hold on, two tough old knots, with quite enough vitality to *lay out* any number of those who pride themselves on what they can do.—Admiral D. D. Porter, 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 174.





**Lengthy.** Long, and more or less tedious.

- 1759 I grow too minute and *lengthy*.—John Adams, 'Diary,' Jan. 3. (N.E.D.)
- 1760 The most steep and *lengthy* [hill] to ascend, which I have ever seen.—P. Coffin in 'New England Hist. and Geneal. Register' (1855), ix. 341. (N.E.D.)
- 1772 A *lengthy* essay, received from the country.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 10.
- 1773 The whole account is too *lengthy* for this Day's Paper.—*Boston Evening Post*, Sept. 27.
- 1775 A particular detail is too *lengthy* to publish in a news paper.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 12.
- 1782-86 Ten examples in Jefferson's 'Writings.' (N.E.D.)
- 1785 I would have but one bell tolled, and that but for five minutes ; for I am not willing that sick and infirm persons should be disturbed with a *lengthy* noise, at the carrying of the body of my humiliation to the silent grave.—Will of Dr. Samuel Mather, *Mass. Spy*, July 7.
- 1793 *The British Critic* objects to the word. (N.E.D.)
- 1795       Then quick the victories of the day  
          Were thro' the union highly sounded  
          In *lengthy* periods, finely rounded.  
*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Jan. 12 : from *The Farmers' Chronicle*.
- 1799 In the first letter, which is *lengthy*, the General says, &c.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Feb. 19.
- 1801 A writer in the *New-England Palladium* animadverts, in a very correct and critical manner, upon many barbarous American words and phrases. Of *lengthy*, he declares that it can be found in no English dictionary, and in no English author. It is undoubtedly the growth of the wigwam ; and is a vicious, fugitive, scoundrel, and True American word. It should be hooted by every elegant English scholar, and proscribed from every page. *Spry, Caucus, Illy*, &c., are likewise fairly tried and justly condemned.—'The Port Folio,' i. 247 (Phila.).
- 1802 From the president of the U.S. down to Tench Coxe (a wide distance we own) there is scarcely one man of the party, that is not in the habit of employing the *true-American* words, *illy* and *lengthy*.—*Id.*, ii. 39.
- 1804 In the year 1800 I wrote, Sir, a *lengthy* outline of yourself.—Wm. Cunningham, Jun., to John Adams : 'Adams Corresp.,' Boston, 1823.
- 1805 My uncle's remarks were considerably more *lengthy* than what I have here noted down.—*Mass Spy*, May 1.
- 1814 I mean to have a starling taught, who shall "hallow *lengthy*" in the ear of every transatlantic critic who shall dare to beard this most orthodox and parliamentary word.—*Analectic Mag.*, iii. 409, May (Phila.).





**Let her rip, Let her went—contd.**

- 1856 The defendant answers "Quinine Savoy" [Quien Sabe], which, with your honor's permission, I will interpret "*Let 'er rip.*"—*San Francisco Call*, Dec. 10.
- 1857 Presently I heard, "All set ; *let her rip.*"—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 443 (Nov.).
- 1860 "*Let her RIP.*"—conclusion of an epitaph, for the genuineness of which a correspondent vouches.—*Id.*, lv. 660 (June).
- 1878 Tomorrow mornin' we'll *let 'er rip* [the cannon] bright and early.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Poganuc People,' ch. xvii.

**Let in, let out.** To commence, to conclude.

- 1904 "The party will *let in* about nine o'clock." "When does church *let out* ?"—'Dialect Notes,' ii. 398.

**Let on.** To intimate, to disclose a fact. The N.E.D. gives instances from Ramsay (1725), Burns (1795), and Scott (1825). The use mentioned in quotation 1828 is peculiar, and unknown to the compiler.

- 1828 [In the South] to *let on* means to make believe.—*The Yankee*, April 23 (Portland, Me.).

**Let slide.** Let the thing go without hindrance. The phrase occurs in Chaucer and in Shakspeare.

- 1847 If you have the least hankerin' arter the mean varmint, in course I'll *let him slide*.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 122.
- 1850 Oil the press well, and *let her slide*.—*Frontier Guardian*, Feb. 6.
- 1851 The old man had told him to *let it slide* at fifteen, rather than not sell [the cotton].—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 32.
- 1853 Oh, *let the poker slide*, replied Sol.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 220.
- 1853 The old year will soon be gone ; so we'll *let it slide*.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 225.
- 1854 I done as Mr. R. done,—*let it slide, let it slide*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 24 (July).
- 1855 When Brigham chooses to run around a snag, or over a snag, he will do so. The ship is all oak. *Let her slide*.—J. M. Grant at the Mormon Tabernacle, Sept. 24 : 'Journal of Discourses,' iii. 69.
- 1855 It has been charged that [Mr. Banks] used the language, "*let the Union slide.*"—Mr. Stewart of Maryland, House of Repr., Dec. 24 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 74.
- 1856 This talk about "*letting the Union slide*" goes for nothing with me, especially when it comes from persons who attempt to make it slide upon every opportunity.—Mr. Simmons of N.Y., the same, Jan. 16 : *id.*, p. 238.
- 1857 Brother Brigham never rebuked me for being valiant before this people. He says, "Let her go, Heber ; *let her slide.*"—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 2 : 'Journal of Discourses,' v 133.
- 1859 If you can't "come up to the scratch," why I must "*let you slide.*"—J. G. Holland, 'Titcomb's Letters,' p. 141.

**Let slide—contd.**

- 1860 I shall nevertheless "*let her slide.*"—*Knicker. Mag.*, lv. 413 (April).  
 1861 If we must give up that principle or the Union, *let the idea slide.*—*Olympia (W.T.) Pioneer*, March 1.

**Let up.** To cease, to cease interfering, &c. A **Let-up.** A truce, a cessation.

- 1837 There was no *let up* in the matter; the people had so ordered it, and the gentleman ought to be satisfied.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., Dec. 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 47, App.  
 a.1854 This pertinacious snarling, snivelling, and blowing from day to day, without a *let-up*, is as contemptible as it is ineffectual.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 110.  
 1857 Our spicy contemporary must "*let up*" on us for this error of omission.—*San Francisco Call*, Feb. 21.  
 1861 We're bound to see 'em through, and no *let-up* till they've bought all they've got on their memorandums.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 208 (Feb.).  
 1867 [He said] there was as yet no *let-up* on writing.—Letter from General Custer, April 8: Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 525.  
 1882 I promised I'd *let up* on him.—F. Bret Harte, 'Flip,' ch. iv. (N.E.D.)  
 1888 The coyotes never *let up* until they have taken aboard so much rabbit-meat that they can hardly stir.—*San Francisco Examiner*, March 22 (Farmer).

**Letter-carrier.** A postman.

- 1552 Huloet, Dict. *Letter carier*, ambulans, libellio, tabelarius. (N.E.D.)  
 1697 [He has appointed] Mr. Van-hulse . . . to be court *letter carrier*.—Luttrell, 'Brief Relation' (1857), iv. 304. (N.E.D.)  
 1799 Would you think it strange that an ambassador might not employ a horse-thief, and not even in his proper vocation either, but only as a *letter-carrier*?—*The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 17.

**Levee.** An embankment against floods: especially that on the lower Mississippi. The levees of that river are fully described by Brackenridge, pp. 175–181.

- 1797 A raised bank, called a *levee*, which formed a broad walk immediately on the border of the river, and in many places was planted with orange and lemon trees.—Fra. Baily, F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' pp. 295–6. (Lond, 1856).  
 1812 What is considered a good *levee* may almost anywhere be made for 400 dollars a mile.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Views of Louisiana,' p. 177.  
 1815 The *levee* or margin of the river [at New Orleans].—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 15.

**Levee—contd.**

- 1819 The *levee*, or embankment, commences on one side at Natchez.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 140 (Boston, 1824).
- 1855 I presented a memorial in relation to the effect of *leveeing*, by the States of Missouri and Arkansas, of the right or west bank of the Mississippi River.—Mr. Etheridge of Tenn., House of Repr., Jan. 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 276.

**Level, level-headed.** Sensible; not flighty.

- 1869 The wanderers were right, and the heads of the same were *level*.—'New Pilgrim's Progress,' ch. ix.
- 1870 To tell a woman her head is *level* is apparently a compliment in America.—*The Orchestra*, Aug. 12. (N.E.D.)
- 1879 Clear-headed, or, as they would now be called, *level-headed*, were these children of the Berkshire hills.—A. Tourgee, 'A Fool's Errand,' p. 8. (N.E.D.)
- 1882 "You see, gentlemen," says Bliss, "Chet's head is *level* usually, but in the host of things he has to see to he is apt to go wrong now and then."—*Washington Critic*, March 13.
- 1909 There is also the spread-eagle style into which ordinarily *level-headed* men will sometimes suddenly and mysteriously drop.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 25.

**Level best, one's.** The best one can do.

- 1851 We put our horses out at *their level best*.—'An Arkansaw Doctor,' p. 87.
- 1869 How comes it that the friends of F. A. Marcy did *their level best* . . . to secure the defeat of Mr. Francy?—*Hartford Courant*, Oct. 4 (Bartlett).

**Levy.** An elevenpenny bit; one eighth of a dollar.

- 1832 He drew [out] rather more dollars, half dollars, *levies*, and fips, than his dirty little hand could well hold.—Mrs. Trollope, 'Manners of the Americans,' i. 171.
- 1834 I axes . . . five *levys* for the kittens.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, iii. 355.
- 1836 The *N.Y. Transcript* says that the *Boston Post* says that the boot-blacks have struck for a *levy* instead of a fip, which in New York parlance is a shilling instead of sixpence.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Dec. 15.
- 1837 Fips and *levies* ain't as plenty as snowballs, in this ere yearthly spear.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 182.
- 1837 Give us a fip's worth of sheet and *levy's* worth of blanket.—*Id.*, p. 204 (Funk, Dict.).
- 1837 Half after half, quarter after quarter, and *levy* after *levy* were added to the price [of the mammoth pumpkin].—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Oct. 2, p. 2/1.
- 1842 A lady entered the store, and called for a mackerel, tendering a *levy* in payment.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, March 17.
- 1848 How much do you ax for [those matches]? ses I. Eight boxes for a *levy*, ses he.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 76.

**Levy—contd.**

- 1853 What is the currency of the U.S. ? Coppers, bogus, Bungtown cents, pennies, fips, fourpence 'a' pennies, *levys*, ninepences, Spanish quarters, pistarcens, and shinplasters. —*Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 13.
- 1857 [He] bought a fip custard for a *levy*.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Aug. 15. (For fuller quotation see FIP.)

**Lewisites.** See BURRITES.

**Liberty tree, Liberty pole.** The first tree thus named was the great elm on Boston Common. M. C. L. of New York states that the first Liberty Pole was put up in N.Y. City, June 4, 1766, to celebrate the repeal of the Stamp Act. On it was a banner inscribed: "To his gracious Majesty George III., Mr. Pitt, and Liberty." The pole was cut down four times by the British soldiers; but the fifth pole remained until the occupation of the City in 1776.—*Notes and Queries*, 10 S. xii. 371 (1909).

- 1766 In the morning there was a Stage erected under *Liberty Tree*, having two Effigies thereon, one of them representing B—e, dressed in Plaid, the other a representation of G—e; over them a Gallows, on which appeared the D—l handing a S—p A—t to B—e, and uttering these words, *Force it*: to which he replied, *We can't do it*; but G—e says, *But we will force it on the rebels*.—*Boston Evening Post*, Feb. 24. [The passage is illustrated with a curious woodcut,—the Devil on the top of a Gallows, to which Bute and Grenville are chained, handing them a copy of the Stamp Act.]
- 1766 There was a great festival at the *Liberty Elm* on the occasion of the repeal of the Stamp Act.—A full account, *id.*, May 26.
- 1770 A number of [the Inhabitants] assembled last night at *Liberty Pole* [in New York].—*Mass. Gazette*, Jan. 15.
- 1770 We are all in confusion in [New York]. The Soldiers have cut and blowed up the *Liberty Pole*.—*Id.*, Feb. 1.
- 1775 Enquire of Adam Collson, a little to the southward of the *Liberty Tree*.—Advt., *Boston Evening Post*, Jan. 23.
- 1775 A song on the *Liberty Tree*, dated Phila., Sept. 16, occurs in the *Am. Museum*, vi. 332 (1789). It is 32 lines long, and commences, "In a chariot of light from the regions of day."
- 1776 "The Soliloquy of the Boston *Tree of Liberty*, as they were cutting it down," written on the British side, was printed in the *Boston News-Letter*, March 8: see Buckingham, 'Newspaper Literature,' i. 38–41 (1850).
- 1785 [These lines] were inscribed upon a *Liberty Pole*, when *Liberty Poles* were in fashion, in a certain town.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 13.
- 1793 The people destroyed the monument erected by the Jacobin Club, and, transporting the fragments of it to the foot of the *tree of liberty*, set the whole on fire. [This was in Europe].—*Gazette of the U.S.*, May 22.

**Liberty tree, Liberty pole—contd.**

- 1795 A new *Tree of Liberty*, decorated in the most elegant manner, and crowned with the cap of liberty, was planted before the Town House [at Amsterdam].—*Id.*, April 2.
- 1798 The erecting “*poles of faction*, falsely styled *liberty poles*, must be attributed to designing men.”—*Id.*, Aug. 1.
- 1798 A parcel of Democrats, who have met in different parts and raised *Liberty Poles* —*The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 13.
- 1798 A vagabond Irishman or Scotchman, in the 3rd parish of Dedman [Dedham ?] has stirred up a few people to erect a *liberty pole*.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Nov. 8.
- 1798 The *Sedition Pole*, recently erected [by French sympathizers] in Vassalborough, . . . was hewed in pieces by Capt. James Bracket and his company].—*Id.*, Dec. 17.
- 1799 Lines on the Hackensack New-Raised *Liberty Pole* —*The Aurora*, March 30 : from the *N.Y. Argus*.
- 1799 These adventure hunting cannibals ventured only to about eighty steps within the well guarded *Liberty Tree*.—*Id.*, May 13.
- 1799 The planting of these trees being copied in Europe, one was set up at Coire, May 12.—*Id.*, June 1.
- 1799 Benjamin Fairbanks was indicted for the publication of a Libel affixed to the *Pole* at Dedham : he being one of the persons who assisted in erecting that symbol of sedition.—*Mass. Mercury*, June 21.
- a.1838 The *Boston Post* quotes a down-east editor as saying : “I’m a real catastrophe, a small creation ; Mount Vesuvius at the top, with red hot lava pouring out of the crater, and routing nations. My fists are rocky mountains, my arms *Whig Liberty poles*, with iron springs. Every step I take is an earthquake ; every blow I strike is a clap of thunder, and every breath I breathe is a tornado. My disposition is Dupont’s best, and goes off at a flash. When I blast, there’ll be nothing left but a hole three feet in circumference, and no end to its depth.”—Buckingham, ‘*America*,’ i. 228 (1841).
- a.1848 He might as well undertake to climb a greased *liberty pole* with cowhide boots and buckskin mittens.—Dow, Jun., ‘*Patent Sermons*,’ i. 132.
- 1857 [The man] would sway backward and forward like a loose *liberty pole* in a gale of wind.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 100 (Jan.).
- Lick.** See quot. 1820.
- 1751 42 *Salt Licks*, or Ponds, formed by little Streams or Dreins of Water.—C. Gist, ‘*Journals*’ (1893), 42. (N.E.D.)
- 1778 I never saw a *Deer-lick*. Hunters have told me that Deer frequent those Places for the Mud.—*Maryland Journal*, June 2.
- 1784 Bullet’s Lick, Drennen’s Lick, The Big-bone, the Blue-Licks, Nob-Lick : to these the cattle repair, and reduce high hills rather to valleys than plains.—John Filson, ‘*Kentucke*,’ p. 32.

**Lick—contd.**

- 1789 [Added to Mr. Peale's American Museum.] A Grinder of a non-descript Animal of the Western Country, found at the Big Bone *Salt-Lick*, and weighing Four Pounds.—*Maryland Journal*, Jan. 16.
- 1792 A salt spring is called a *Lick*, from the earth about them being furrowed out, in a curious manner, by buffalo and deer, which lick the earth on account of the saline particles with which it is impregnated.—G. Imlay, 'Topogr. Descr.,' p. 43.
- 1800 Moses L. approached a *lick*, and took his stand in a convenient place to watch for game.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 17.
- 1807 [I am] acquainted with Mr. Ross, proprietor of the big bone *lick*.—Th. Jefferson to Dr. Wistar, Feb. 25.
- 1818 Col. Boon rode to a *deer-lick*, and seated himself behind a blind raised to conceal him from the game.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 23.
- 1820 We have *Salt Licks*, *Blue Licks*, *Sulphur Licks*, *Big Bone Licks*, and *Licks* of all sorts and sizes. The word is uncouth enough, but very descriptive, and designates those spots which have been frequented by wild grazing animals for the purpose of licking the saline particles with which the earth is impregnated. Some of these places have been licked for centuries, until vast cavities have been formed.—Hall's 'Letters from the West,' p. 210 (Lond.).
- 1823 I saw a *deer-lick*, at which I dismounted and took a lick.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 234.
- 1826 One of the peculiar features of the whole country west of the Mississippi is these *licks*.—T. Flint, 'Recoll.,' p. 256.
- 1831 The deer that goes too often to the *lick* meets the hunter at last.—J. F. Cooper, 'The Pathfinders,' i. 182 (Lond., 1840).
- 1848 Hard by there was a salt spring, and the deer and buffalo were in the habit of licking the surrounding earth.... It was decided that every subdivision should have an angle or corner in the *salt lick*.... When we arrived at Mr. May's *deer lick*, in the autumn of 1788, there were no inhabitants in that part of the country.—Drake, 'Pioneer Life in Kentucky,' pp. 13, 14, 48 (Cincinnati, 1870).
- 1848 [In Kentucky, about 1774.] Elk were frequently seen browsing on the hills near the *licks*.—Monette, 'Hist. of the Miss. Valley,' i. 364.
- 1868 Whatever shooting he did was only at the "*licks*," where the deer came to get salt.—Sol Smith, 'Autobiog.,' p. 10.

**Lie around loose.**

- 1856 One of the effects of their refreshment was to make things *lie around loose* in a promiscuous manner.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlvii. 617 (June).
- 1857 See BALANCE.

**Lift.** To discharge, to pay off.

1846 [Mr. W.] is less able to *lift* my paper now, than at any former time.—*Oregon Spectator*, April 30.

1858 I bent my back in *lifting* notes, and I don't know that it will ever come straight again.—*Knick. Mag.*, lii. 216 (Aug.).

1879 The weather must *lift* the mortgage on his farm.—J. Burroughs, 'Locusts and Wild Honey,' p. 79. (N.E.D.)

1886 So then the spectral mortgage could never be *lifted*.—Stockton, 'The Lady or the Tiger,' p. 74. (N.E.D.)

**Lift a Letter.** To obtain it on payment of postage.

1863 In many instances the soldier, being disappointed in receiving his pay, is unable to provide his family with the pittance necessary to *lift a letter* from the office.—Mr. Jesse Lazear of Pa., House of Repr., Feb. 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1154/3.

**Light.** To alight.

1839 We *lit* from our horses, and fingered his pockets.—'Hist. of Virgil A. Stewart,' p. 64 (N.Y.).

**Light out.** To clear out; to absquatulate.

1878 When the camp was asleep, [we] *lit out* over the hills.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 42.

1878 The horses broke loose and *lit out* down the street, like the devil a beatin' tan-bark.—*Id.*, p. 184.

1890 I looked around and found the ginnel [general] gone, and I took one leap and *lit out* in a jiffy.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 103.

1901 They told us that we had better be *lighting out*; that the roads and woods were alive with Yankee cavalry.—W. Pittenger, 'The Great Locomotive Chase,' p. 201.

1903 In S.E. Missouri, the phrase is *to light a rag*. "He go skeered an' *lit a rag* for home."—'Dialect Notes,' ii. 319.

**Light weight.** Of small account.

1882 The way Bliss speaks of the Cabinet, as "*light weight* but harmless," is felicitous.—*Washington Critic*, March 13.

**Lightning-bug.** A fire-fly.

1797 This country at present has two species of *Lightning Bugs*.—*Mass Spy.*, Aug. 30. [Viz., fire-flies, and people who use fire carelessly.]

1806 Gleam then like the *lightning-bug*.—Moore, 'Poems,' p. 166. (N.E.D.) He probably picked up the word in America.

1807 I spent a week in endeavoring to train a number of fire-flies and *lightening bugs*.—*The Balance*, Aug. 25, p. 268: from the *Weekly Register*.

1823 I noticed large luminous sparks of fire in the trees, which I found to be fire-flies, or, as they are here called, *lightning-bugs*.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 64.

1842 The beautiful fire-fly which abounds here, and fills the air with sparkling gems at night, is called by the uninviting name of the *lightning bug*.—Buckingham, 'Slave States,' ii. 132.





**Lightwood**—*contd.*

- 1838 [Charleston, S.C., was] set on fire by flakes falling on a pile of *light wood*.—*The Jeffersonian*, May 12, p. 104.
- 1853 The negro drew from his pocket a few chips of *light wood*, or heart of the pitch pine.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 40.
- 1856 Boys, throw on some fresh *lightwood*. Let's have a good blaze to see by, and bring up the prisoner.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 16 (N.Y.).
- 1856 Stay a bit, my child, till I fling a few more knots of *lightwood* upon the fire; we shall be in the dark presently, and I always likes to see the face of a person when I'm a speaking to 'em.—*Id.*, p. 74.

**Like a book.** Thoroughly, accurately.

- 1829 You talk *like a book*, Mr. Bond; but after all, &c.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 28.
- 1833 [She] sang like a nightingale, and talked *like a book*.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 11 (Phila.).
- 1833 An educated and travelled Yankee, . . . talking *like a book*, even to his washerwoman.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' p. 26.
- 1839 Know him *like a book*, replied Mr. Lummucks.—'Harry Franco,' i. 73.
- 1841 Democrats, he knew, would vote for [the Pre-emption bill] *like a book*.—Mr. Reynolds of Illinois, House of Repr., Feb. 5: *Congressional Globe*, p. 148.
- 1843 Jim made 'em go *like a book*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxi. 116.
- 1845 I knows the C.'s *like a book*, and I'll be dad-fetcht if ther was a sign of a C. in that buggy.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 74.
- 1847 I clean clothes from head to foot,  
And I clean them *like a book*;  
When I clean your boots and shoes,  
Then a fourpence I'll not refuse.  
Lines by a colored shoeblack: *Knick. Mag.*, xxix. 190 (Feb.).
- 1848 The head-committee-man, who "knew Jemmy Polk, jes' *like a book*."—'Stray Subjects,' p. 178.
- 1850 Haow much?—spit it aout—don't be afeard—you did it jes' *like a book*, old feller.—*Frontier Guardian*, Feb. 6: from the *American Union*.
- 1853 Trapp and Trevor,—you know the firm? *Like a book*.—'Life Scenes,' p. 295.
- 1855 He knows everything, and talks jist *like a book*.—W. G. Simms, 'Border Beagles,' p. 190 (N.Y.).
- 1856 Well, Uncle Ebbin, you know H. *like a book*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 271 (March).
- 1857 I know her and her husband *like a book*.—*Id.*, xlix. 42 (Jan.).
- 1858 You talk *like a book* about *opus pecunia*, and all that.—*Id.*, lii. 214 (Aug.).
- 1860 Can you describe the bride's dress?—*Like a book*, said I, with first-class confidence.—*Id.*, lvi. 164 (Aug.).

**Likely.** Able-bodied, good-looking, serviceable.

- 1454 The Duke of York . . . wole come with his household meynnee, clenly beseen and *likly* men.—‘Paston Letters,’ i. 265. (N.E.D.)
- 1764 To be sold, the Hull of the very *likely* well built Brig, &c.—*Boston Evening Post*, Nov. 26.
- 1765 A *likely* capable Negro Girl, to be sold for no Fault, but only for want of Employ.—*Boston-Gazette*, May 27.
- 1766 A nice *likely* and well built Vessel for Sale.—*Id.*, Dec. 22.
- 1768 To be sold, a very *likely* Negro Man.—*Mass. Gazette*, Nov. 28.
- 1768 Same advertisement, same day : *Boston Post-Boy*.
- 1774 A *likely* Male Negro Child to be given away.—*Boston Evening Post*, Feb. 14.
- 1774 To be sold, a healthy, *likely* negro boy, about four feet high.—*Newport Mercury*, Feb. 21.
- 1778 To be sold, a *likely* Negro Wench, about 14 Years of Age, can Spin and do House Work tolerably well.—*Maryland Journal*, March 24.
- 1784 Twenty Dollars Reward. Ran away from the Rope-Walk on the 27th ult., a Negro man named Ishmael . . . He is a *likely* fellow.—*Virginia Journal*, June 24.
- 1784 Eight Dollars Reward. Ran away from Dumfries on the 17th inst. a very black *likely* Negro woman, named Beck.—*Id.*, July 1.
- 1784 For Sale. A *likely* mulatto servant, who has been used to act as a Waiting-Man to Gentlemen.—*Id.*, July 15.
- 1784 Stolen from the common of this town, a *likely* Grey Horse.—*Id.*, July 15.
- 1788 Three *likely* Negro Men and a Girl, to be hired for the Year of Eighty-eight.—*Maryland Journal*, Jan. 4.
- 1790 In the northern states, the body of the people use *likely* as synonymous [*sic*] with ingenious, sensible, friendly, &c., and ugly as synonymous with ill-tempered, mean, or villanous.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 30 : from the *Am. Mercury*.
- 1791 A *likely* Jackass for sale.—*Id.*, July 14.
- 1793 To be sold, one very *likely* Jack.—*Id.*, April 25.
- 1796 A *likely*, smart Negro Boy for sale at Mrs. Beatie’s in Penn Street.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Sept. 5.
- 1823 Notice. Will be sold at the mansion-house of John Vivion deceased, all the personal estate of said deceased, consisting of Seven Negroes . . . Two *likely* young Girls, between the ages of 20 and 25. Two *likely* Boys, between the ages of 16 and 20. And one *likely* young Girl of the age of five years, &c., &c.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, Aug. 5.
- 1843 For Sale. A *likely* Negro Woman, 25 years old, having one child, a boy three years old.—*Missouri Reporter*, Jan. 17.
- 1843 I have for sale a very *likely* yellow woman, about 24 years of age . . . She has between five and six years to serve. The balance of her time will be sold very low to a person in the city or country ; she cannot be taken out of the state.—*Id.*, Jan. 28.
- 1856 I’ve lost horses—and I’ve lost cows—and I’ve lost *likely* calves and shoats.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 426 (Oct.).

**Likely.** Probably. This is as old as Wiclif and Hoccleve (N.E.D.), and survives in "very likely."

1885 There, sir, you will *likely* recognize that.—Admiral D. D. Porter, 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 164.

**Limb.** A leg. This is as old as Maundeville and Dunbar. (N.E.D.)

1781 See an allusion s.v. BUNDLE.

1809 Her arms were as two trapsticks small,  
Her fingers just like thongs ;  
Her legs,—if legs we might them call,—  
Were like the legs of tongs.

*Mass. Spy*, July 5.

1854 [The Indian maiden] was seated on a rock, her legs (beg pardon,—her *limbs*) stretched far asunder.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xliii. 554 (June).

1858 [The horse] fell from the stairs which he used to ascend, and, fracturing his *limb*, his death was rendered necessary.—*Pittsburg Chronicle*, June (Bartlett).

1873 There are several places where even the thickness of a man's *limb* is too much between the horse and the cliff.—J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 549 (Phila., &c.).

**Limpsy.** Limp, nerveless.

1833 Ruther a *limpsy* chain, though, continued the down-easter —John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 75.

1833 Let a feller be all worn out and wilted down as *limpsy* as a rag, so that the doctors would think he was jest ready to fly off the handle, &c.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 234 (1860).

1856 Why, you're as *limsy* now as a rag.—Mrs. Southworth, 'Lawrence Monroe,' p. 79 (Boston).

1862 In the mornin he was the most *limpsy* piecc of mankind I ever did see. I raelly believe he might have been tied in a knot like an eel, he was so limber.—'Major Jack Downing, Letters,' Oct. 20.

1862 The Kernel says he feels as *limsy* as an eel.—*Id.*, Aug. 14.

1865 That child . . . makes two steps forward before its *limpsy* body loses its balance.—Elihu Burritt, 'Walk to the Land's End,' p. 284. (N.E.D.)

1867 I understood it all, the minute my hands touched the money. The paper was too *limpsy*.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 591 (May).

**Liquor.** To take a drink.

1836 Well, Colonel, says he, what do you think of my larder ? says he. Fine ; says I ; let us *liquor*.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 50 (Phila.).

1836 They moved that we adjourn to the tavern and *liquor*.—*Id.*, p. 53.

1836 Having *liquored*, we proceeded on the journey.—*Id.*, p. 70.

1836 All this cackling, says I, makes me very thirsty, so let us adjourn to the bar and *liquor*.—*Id.*, p. 81.

1839 It's a bargain then, . . . come, let's *liquor* on it.—Marryat, 'Diary in America,' i. 239. (N.E.D.)

**Liquor—contd.**

- 1860 *Punch* cartoon, Nov. 10. The Prince of Wales, returning from the U.S., says to his father, Prince Albert: "Now Sir-ree, if you'll *liquor up* and settle down, I'll tell you all about my travels."
- 1861 "Won't you take something sir—won't you *liquor*?" says the American in Charles Lever's 'One of Them,' p. 135.

**Little end of the horn.** To come out at the little end is to be worsted, to come to grief.

- 1805 I am very much afraid I shall *come out at the little end of the horn*.—*Balt. Ev. Post*, July 5, p. 2/5.
- 1817 If the farmers and the traders, instead of attending closely to their proper callings, are busy here and there, they will assuredly "*come out of the little end of the horn*."—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 19.
- 1828 [*The Portland Argus*] has fairly worked itself out of *the little end of the horn*.—*The Yankee*, p. 237.
- 1836 Everywhere I touched was pizen, and I *came out at the little end of the horn*.—'A Quarter Race in Kentucky,' (1846), p. 24.
- 1847 Why, Colonel, I see you have had a skrimmage. How did you make it? You didn't *come out at the little end of the horn*, did you?—'Jones's Fight,' p. 37 (Phila.).
- 1852 I'm afraid we're *coming out at the little end of the horn*, Major.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 395 (1860).
- 1852 We have commenced at *the little end of the horn*, and by and bye we shall come out at the big end.—Elder John Taylor, at the Mormon Tabernacle, Aug. 22: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 16.
- 1855 You used to hear brother Joseph [Smith] tell about this people being crowded into *the little end of the horn*, and if they kept straight ahead they were sure to come out at the big end.—Brigham Young, April 8: *id.*, ii. 267.
- 1857 [J. C. Fremont] *came out at the little end of the horn*; he was not elected [President].—John Taylor at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 9: *id.*, v. 120.

\*\*\* The phrase may be of English origin. It is suggested by old pictures relating to suretiship: see *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. iv. 323; vii. 257, 386.

**Little Giant, the.** Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois.

- 1854 We will next examine into the qualities for availability that the "*Little Giant*" possesses.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xliv. 7 (July).
- 1854 I am for the *little giant* and "Sanhedrim of Illinois" whilst he stands by the Constitution of his country.—Mr. Elliott of Kentucky, House of Repr., May 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 819, App.
- 1856 The Illinois Central railroad bill, with all the power of the "*little giant*," would never have been passed, if Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama had not been attached to it.—Mr. Jones of Iowa, U.S. Senate, May 9: *id.*, p. 1170.

**Little Giant—contd.**

- 1860       The *Little Giant* of the West,  
               Like Hercules, the beasts will slay ;  
               Disunion's dragons, that infest  
               Our shores, will quickly pass away.

*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Jan. 1.

- 1860   [Mr. Greeley] states that there is one tie left between him and Judge Douglas, and that is his admiration of the pluck of the *little giant*.—Mr. Kellogg of Illinois, House of Repr., March 13 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 162, App.

- 1860   The "*little giant*" was born, and Cervantes died, on the twenty-third of April.—*Richmond Enquirer*, March 13, p. 2/1.

**Little Isaac.** See quotation.

- 1781   It is from the singing of the tree-frog that the Americans have acquired the name of *Little Isaac*.—Samuel Peters, 'Hist. of Conn.,' p. 262 (Lond.). [See also TREE-FROG, 1781.]

- 1837   What a "cunning *little Isaac*" of a brother this is.—Balt. *Comml. Transcript*, Aug. 16, p. 2/2 : from the *Richmond Compiler*.

**Little Rhody.** Rhode Island.

- 1852   *Little Rhody*, in whose University [at Providence] so many months were passed.—S. S. Cox, 'A Buckeye Abroad,' p. 444.

- 1862   I must say of [Mr. Sheffield] and of his State, as did the "Sage of Ashland" in bygone days, "God bless *little Rhody* ; she is always right."—Mr. Geo. W. Dunlap of Kentucky, House of Repr., Jan. 31 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 598/2.

**Live.** Active. "Chiefly U.S." (N.E.D.)

- 1857   A neighboring bath-house, kept by a *live* Yankee of the name of Martin.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 456 (Nov.).

**Live fence.** A growing hedge.

- 1829   Messrs. G. Th. and Son have imported 75,000 hawthorns, for "*live fencing*."—*Mass. Spy*, March 25 : from the *Boston Courier*.

- 1847   Among this undergrowth was a species of thorn that would be excellent for *live fence*.—'Life of Benjamin Lundy,' p. 47 (Phila.).

**Live Oak.** The *Quercus virens*.

- 1610   Ashe, Sarsafrese, *live Oake*, green all the yeare.—'True Declaration, Colony of Virginia,' p. 22. (N.E.D.)

- 1775   A few spots of hammock, or upland, are found on this island ; these produce a few trees of the *live oak*, and willow oak.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 283.

- 1788   *Live oak* is of much longer duration than any other timber whatever.—'Am. Museum,' iii. 441.

- 1788   There are on the Land a considerable Quantity of *Live-Oak* and Cedar.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Dec. 30.

- 1789   The almost exclusive possession of that invaluable tree called the *Live Oak*, which seems to have been ordained by Heaven for the sole use of the American navy.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, N.Y., May 27.

**Live Oak—contd.**

- 1816 "A description of a *Live Oak Tree* upon Beaufort Island."—Letter from So. Carolina, *Mass. Spy*, March 20. [The trunk measured 32 ft. 5 inches around.]
- 1827 Gov. Burton said aside, "You'd have your match to set your teeth into this [cheese] any how; it is the real white oak." Mr. Cambreleng caught the last words, and added "You might have said *live oak*, Governor."—*Mass. Spy*, June 27.
- 1837 Many of our naval officers are of opinion that the Carolina *live oak* is superior to the Florida, and much more durable.—Mr. Pinckney in the House of Representatives, Feb. 21 *Cong. Globe*, p. 195.
- 1847 [On the Brazos River] the *live oak* is very common.—'Life of Benjamin Lundy,' p. 35 (Phila.).
- 1847 The towering and umbrageous evergreen *live oaks* gave an interesting aspect to the whole scenery.—*Id.*, p. 101.
- 1857 Frequent mottos of *live-oak*.—F. L. Olmsted, 'Journey through Texas,' p. 238 (N.Y.).
- 1888 Stuccoed houses that appeared summery in the midst of the *live oaks*' perennial green.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 216.

**Living price.** A price at which one can earn a living.

- 1834 Mr. Forsyth said that 70 to 76 cents was a very *living price* for fish oil, and, while it stood at that, sailors would be engaged in the business.—U.S. Senate, May 3: *Cong. Globe*, p. 362.
- 1892 Mr. C. would be glad to be enabled to do, at a *living price*, a series of Prints.—*The Nation* (N.Y.), March 3, p. 168. (N.E.D.)

**Loafer.** One who loafs about; an idler. An American would have applied the term to the Athenian quidnuncs described by St. Luke.

- 1835 "The late Ben Smith, *Loafer*."—Title of a witty sketch by Cornelius Matthews: *Knickerbocker Mag.*, vi. 63 (July).
- 1837 Quigg the Congressman was now but a ragged gentleman, —a *loafer*.—*Id.*, ix. 343 (April).
- 1837 A man who claims the acquaintance of every *loafer* he may chance to meet.—*Id.*, ix. 115 (Feb.).
- 1837 My room is full of *loafers* tormenting me to death about a sixpenny Canal claim.—Charles L. Livingston to Jesse Hoyt. W. L. Mackenzie, 'Life of M. Van Buren,' p. 181.
- 1837 Mr. Dabbs came home from his "*loafing*" place,—for he "*loafs*" of an evening, like the generality of people.—Joseph C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 34. (N.E.D.)
- 1837 A paper on "*Loafers and Loafing*," by James Richardson *Harvardiana*, iii. 301-4.
- 1837 He is a long, lank, lean, lazy *loafer*, six feet high.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ii. 150 (Feb.).



**Loafer—contd.**

- 1837 A correspondent of the *Balt. Comm. Transcript* (Aug. 19, p. 2/3) contends that the new term "*Loafer*" is traceable to the "land laufer" of Scott's '*Antiquary*,' chap. xiii. The word occurs in the same paper, July 15, 2/1; Aug. 1, 2/1; Aug. 31, 2/3; Sept. 2, 2/1, &c.
- 1838 We are beset at every corner, and in every street and alley, by *loafers*, agents, and seventh-rate county court lawyers.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., March 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 241, Appendix.
- 1839 A youth returning to his father's domicile for support, and *loafing it about*.—*Farmer's Monthly Visitor*, i 28 (Concord, N.H.).
- 1839 Every citizen of New York ought to turn "*loafer*" for at least two months each summer. Let him *loaf* to the Falls, the Catskills, &c.—*Havana* (N.Y.) *Republican*, Sept. 11.
- 1840 There are no people to whom the newly invented Yankee word of "*loafer*" is more appropriate than to the Spanish Americans.—R. H. Dana, '*Before the Mast*,' p. 17. (N.E.D.)
- 1840 Two or three *loafers*—poor shoats—were brought up and fined for sleeping in the streets.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, June 23.
- 1841 [These petitioners] were purchased by hired *loafers* at the corners of streets, at four dollars per hundred.—Mr. Wood of N.Y., House of Repr., Aug. 3: *Cong. Globe*, p. 280, App.
- 1841 A *loafer* is a term applied to an idler who troubles himself about other men's business, and who is a lounge about places of . . . amusements; and also a low thief and vagabond.—Buckingham, '*America*,' i. 235.
- 1843 The one [party] was known as the Silk-stocking gentry; the other by the comprehensive appellation of *Loafers*.—Cornelius Matthews, '*Writings*,' p. 43.
- 1844 Major Pawkins rather "*loafed*" his time away than otherwise.—'*Martin Chuzzlewit*,' chap. xvi. (N.E.D.)
- 1844 [He] returned the salutation by requesting the Oriental *loafer* immediately to make sail for the lower regions.—'*Scribblings and Sketches*,' p. 112.
- 1846 They were taken away to *loaf* upon the community while these others of inferior grade discharged the duties they should discharge.—Mr. Hamlin of Maine, House of Repr., March 23: *Cong. Globe*, p. 535.
- 1848 A score of *loafers* from the "unwashed democracy" had got together for the purpose of seeing a live President.—'*Stray Subjects*,' p. 177.
- 1850 There were no *loafers* about the mill tonight.—S. Judd, '*Richard Edney*,' p. 47.
- 1854 He would have abandoned his crazy chair to the whittling *loafers* who frequent his office.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Oct. 7.
- 1856 They are not persons of reputation, as none but *loafers* travel with hair trunks.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xlvii. 598 (June).

**Loafer**—*contd.*

- 1856 John, the eldest son, adopted the ancient and honorable profession of a *loafer*. To lie idle in the sun, in front of some small grogshop, to attend horse-races, cock-fight and gander-pullings, . . . were pleasures to him.—'Dred' chap. viii.
- 1856 It is said that a *loafer* is known by the three characteristics of wearing stand-up shirt collars, swearing, and smoking cigars.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 311.
- 1860 You cannot make *loafers* and horse thieves work hard.—Brigham Young at Logan, Utah, June 10: 'Journal of Discourses,' viii. 79.
- 1861 In every town of Kentucky there is a set of gentlemanly *loafers*, who in pleasant weather sit on chairs atilt at the street-corners under the trees, moving round with the shadow the whole day.—*Harper's Weekly*, Oct. 5.
- 1865 There were many nondescripts, who would represent the various shades between *loafers* and blacklegs.—A. D. Richardson, 'The Secret Service,' p. 67 (Hartford).
- 1870 [He was] the political oracle of the red-eyed *loafers* who congregated in the low grogeries.—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 80 (Phila., &c.).

**Loan.** To lend.

- 1729 Gershom Tobey *loans* oxen. — *New England Register* (N.E.D.)
- 1740 The remainder of the [money] shall be *loaned out* to particular persons.—'Conn. Colonial Records.' (N.E.D.)
- 1794 Money borrowed or *loaned*.—Advt., *Gazette of the U.S.* Phila., Jan. 7.
- 1828 He has *loaned* a thousand dollars at Sidney cove, on my credit.—T. Flint, 'Arthur Clenning,' ii. 75.
- 1834 The power to withdraw the money from the deposit, and *loan* it to favorite State banks.—J. C. Calhoun, 'Works' ii. 328. (N.E.D.)
- 1837 I *loaned* him a horse, and set him off to Logan's.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 117 (Lond.).
- 1847 Being in great pecuniary distress, I once asked you to *loan* me five dollars.—Sol Smith, 'Adventures,' p. 95.
- 1853 He swore that he had *loaned* him the gun then in court.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 306.
- 1854 Just read this, while I see how much I can *loan* you.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 417 (Oct.).
- 1856 Somebody *loaned* me a novel,—I forget its title or author.—*Id.*, xlviii. 243 (Sept.).
- 1867 On the horse that was *loaned* me, I again set out.—Letter of Gen. Custer, April 20: Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 570 (1888).
- 1909 Robert T. Lincoln . . . has *loaned* the Historical Society number of relics.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 8.

**Lobbying.** See quotation 1841.

1832 Perhaps I shall have a case of congressional *lobbying*, by which I can make it a jaunt of pleasure and profit.—Lorenzo Hoyt to Jesse Hoyt, Sept. 10. W. L. Mackenzie, 'Life of M. Van Buren,' p. 237 (Boston).

1841 A practice exists in the State capitals, called *lobbying*, which consists in this: A certain number of agents, selected for their skill and experience in the arts of deluding, persuading, and bribing members, are employed by public companies and private individuals, who have bills before the legislature which they are anxious to get passed. These persons attend the lobby of the House daily, talk with members, form parties, invite them to dinners and suppers, &c.—Buckingham, 'America,' ii. 421.

1846 They had no committees from the banks of the Mississippi, or even of the Ohio, "*lobbying*" in these halls to regulate tariff duties.—Mr. Allen of Ohio, U.S. Senate, July 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1046.

1861 We will not have, in a southern confederacy, that vast number of persons called a *lobby*, who live upon the Government.—Mr. Thomas Ruffin of N. Carolina, Feb. 19: *Cong. Globe*, p. 228/2, App.

1861 I did not understand the Senator to say....that Commander Dahlgren had been *lobbying* about here, but that his friends had.—Mr. Henry M. Rice of Minnesota, U.S. Senate, July 31: *id.*, p. 361/1.

1881 The *lobby* that the express companies had here three or four years ago tried hard to make Congress believe, &c.—*Washington Critic*, Nov. 22.

**Loblolly bay, Loblolly pine.** See quotation 1827.

1775 Their natural produce is a stately tree called *loblolly bay*.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 32.

1816 Live-oak has very little [gallic acid] in proportion to the black-oak (*quercus tinctoria*) or the black-jack (*quercus nigra*). The *loblolly-bay* (*gordonia*) abounds in gallic acid.—*Analectic Mag.*, vii. 218 (Phila.).

1826 The [Florida] swamps are occupied by the cypress and *loblolly pine*.—T. Flint, 'Recoll.,' p. 318.

1827 *Pine, loblolly.* *Pinus tæda*,—a large tree, in valleys, has much sap.—John L. Williams, 'View of West Florida,' p. 39 (Phila.).

**Local option.** This has been thought to be an Americanism, but is probably attributable to Mr. Gladstone: letter of Oct. 9, 1868. See *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. vi. 467; viii. 50, 196.

**Localize.** To prepare local items for a paper.

1861 An unfortunate scribe consented to do the *localizing* during the absence of the regular city editor.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Dec. 6 (Bartlett).

**Locate.** To place. **Location.** A place or locality.

- 1797 To *locate* [in virtue of a land warrant] means to particularize and describe correctly the place which is intended to be reserved for the sole use and possession of the [claimant].—Fra. Baily, F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 242 (Lond., 1856).
- 1826 There was a warned meeting of the inhabitants, and the object was to *locate* the town house, &c.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 58.
- 1826 It was deemed expedient that I should *locate* myself at St. Charles on the Missouri.—*Id.*, p. 120.
- 1829 Were you not well off where you were *located* before,—had you not plenty of good land?—Basil Hall, 'Travels in N. America,' iii. 131.
- 1830 A certain American establishment, which is, as we Yankees say, "*located*" somewhere between the city of New York and Sandy Hook.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 112.
- 1832 Their business now was to fell trees and cut their logs for their future dwelling, and to *locate* it near a spring.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of N.Y.,' p. 67.
- 1833 Every American who means to *locate* (this is a sound American word, and as indispensable in the vocabulary of a western man as are an axe and a rifle among his household furniture).—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 190 (Lond., 1835).
- 1836 The word is described as "a new and somewhat barbarous, but exceedingly convenient yankeeism, which will probably work its way into good society in England, as its predecessor 'lengthy' has already done."—'Pleasant Peregrinations,' p. 24 (Phila.).
- 1847 Where I shall now *locate* my plots, conspiracies, and other strange deeds, I know not.—J. K. Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 186.
- 1851 I have seldom taxed my judgment as severely on any subject, as in judiciously *locating* a logging establishment.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 67.
- 1852 Let the brethren go and get farms, and *locate* themselves.—H. C. Kimball in the Mormon Tabernacle, Oct. 9: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 160.

**Locator.** One who regularly takes up land.

- 1817 A subsequent *locator* . . . must look for the beginning called for in this entry twelve miles below the mouth of Licking.—Marshall, C. J., in 'Wheaton's Reports,' ii. 211. (N.E.D.)
- 1839 In the early settlement of Tennessee, the rifle and his faithful dog were the indispensable companions of the land *locator*.—Mr. Foster of Tenn., House of Repr., Jan. 23: *Cong. Globe*, p. 265, Appendix.

**Lock horns.** To engage in a desperate and almost equal contest.

- 1839 They are enemies, and let them *lock horns*. Of what age is that wondrous man you speak of?—'History of Virgil A. Stewart,' p. 23 (N.Y.).
- 1888 The Boss of Tammany, with whom Mr. Cleveland had . . . *locked horns*.—Bryce, 'Am. Commonwealth,' ii. 562 note. (N.E.D.)

**Lock-seat.** The site of a canal-lock ; as a Mill-seat is the site for a mill.

1794 Mr. Weston's opinion respecting the *lock-seats* at the Great Falls.—Geo. Washington, 'Letters' (1892), xiii. 1. (N.E.D.)

**Locofoco.** A name at first applied to one section of the Democrats, but afterwards derisively applied to Democrats generally. For the origin of the word, see the earlier quotations.

1834 Self-igniting cigars, commonly called *Locofocos*, were patented by John Marck of N.Y., April 16 (Bartlett).

1834-5 When friction matches were first invented, they were called "Lucifer," in compliment to his Satanic highness ; but in course of time the *locus in quo*, where he is supposed to dwell, was substituted in place of his name, and hence they were given the name of "*Loco-foco*," the place of fire. Now it so happened according to Wheeler [Webster] in 1834, according to Worcester in 1835, that the Democrats of New York one night held a meeting in Tammany Hall. In this meeting there were opposing factions. One of these, finding itself about to be outnumbered, hastily adjourned, and extinguished the lights ; the other as quickly brought in candles, ignited their *loco-foco matches*, lit the candles, called the meeting to order, and proceeded to pass their measures. The Whigs seized upon these circumstances, and dubbed the Democrats *Locofocos*.—Shields, 'Life of Prentiss,' p. 300 (Phila., 1884).

\*.\* See also J. D. Hammond, 'History of Political Parties,' ii. 491.

1837 The President's message is *Locofoco* to the very core.—P. Hone, 'Diary,' Sept. 6. (N.E.D.)

1837 This is not a conservative, but a *loco foco*—a destructive measure.—Mr Wise of Virginia, House of Repr., Sept. 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 246, App.

1837 *Loco foco* ! Gentlemen seem to raise up that name as a ghost to create terror and alarm. It was but the other night that, while [I was] holding a portrait of John Milton in my hand, a very estimable friend of mine looked at it sneeringly, and denounced him as a *loco foco* !—Mr. Pickens in the U.S. Senate, Oct. 10 : *id.*, p. 178, App.

1837 The member calls names. He has denounced the whole Democratic party as *Loco Focos*. I am unacquainted with the meaning of the term *Loco Foco* ; it is of a tongue unknown to me.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., Dec. 18 : *id.*, p. 49, App.

1838 I glory in being a Democrat, and one of the people, whether they be called a mob, swinish multitude, Jacobin, *Loco Foco*, or by whatever name they may be styled.—Mr. Petrikin of Pa., House of R., Dec. 17 : *id.*, p. 38.

1838 Each man had concealed under his coat a candle and a *Loco-Foco match*, and in a moment after the gas was shut off by the regular party, the hall blazed with a thousand lights.—*The Jeffersonian*, Albany, March 10, p. 30.

**Locofoco—contd.**

- 1838 Mr. James K. Paulding is a novelist and humorist of some repute, an original and hearty *Loco-Foco* in sentiment. *Id.*, June 30, p. 154.
- 1839 Our *loco-foco matches* would not ignite.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Wild Scenes,' i. 62 (Lond.).
- 1839 Whether this article, which is more than ordinarily charged with *Loco Focoism*, that is with lies, and slang, and passion, spleen, was written by some salaried hireling, or by some disinterestedly malevolent *Loco Foco*, it is not important to inquire.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, Sept. 18.
- 1839 The finest *Loco Foco* dandy upon the Island.... No other but a brawling *Loco Foco*.... What has *Loco Focoism* done for these rights and privileges? &c.—*Id.*, Sept. 18.
- 1839 Last year a *Locofoco* mob turned the Whig members of the Pennsylvania Senate out of doors.—*Havana (N.Y.) Republican*, Dec. 18.
- 1840 The honorable Senator from New York says there is a class of *Loco Focos* in the city of New York, who are agrarians.—Mr. Smith of Connecticut, House of R., Feb. 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 191.
- 1840 A collection of *novi homines* [of N.Y. City] from the province and princely merchant, who rolls in his coach and four to the *Loco Foco* that sleeps in the market and lives upon bone-soup.—Mr. Pickens of So. Carolina, the same, Feb. 18: *id.*, p. 167, App.
- 1840 If [John C. Calhoun] be indeed a *Loco Foco*, then, sir, let me ever rejoice in the thrice hallowed name of *Loco Foco*.—Mr. Brown of Mississippi, the same, April 17: *id.*, p. 39, App. [For a long piece of his bombastic speech see Appendix No. XXIX. to the present work.]
- 1840 Every one present had a feeling of pity for the Ajax *locofocracy* in Ohio [Senator Allen].—*Niles's National Register*, Sept. 26.
- 1842 Mr. Proffitt of Indiana gave a definition of a *Locofoco* whom he considered as a dissatisfied, discontented individual, willing and ready to tear down all governments in the hope that something would turn up to his own advantage. He thought there were Whig *Locofocos* as well as Van Buren *Locofocos*,—men who were always telling the people that they were badly treated.—House of R., June 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 651.
- 1843 Death of a child [in N. York] from swallowing the ends of *locofoco matches*.—*Missouri Reporter*, St. Louis, May 6.
- 1846 They did all that unflinching *Locofocos* could do; they went the ticket blind; but nothing could withstand the Buckeye Whigs.—Mr. Root of Ohio, House of R., July 1: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1073, App.
- a.1848 [Nature] will snuff out the candle of existence, and all the *loco-foco matches* on earth will not be able to relight it.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 252.
- 1851 Getting somewhat anxious for a smoke, I drew forth a cigar and "*locofoco*."—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xxxvii. 17 (Jan.).

**Locofoco**—*contd.*

- 1855 Lane left on the Jennie Clark, at 2 o'clock on Monday, to attend the *locofoco* territorial convention.—*Weekly Oregonian*, April 14.
- 1855 Mr. Evans has said repeatedly that he would rather be called a *Locofoco* than a free-soiler.—*Olympia* (W.T.) *Pioneer*, July 13.
- 1855 These miserable Durham *locofocos*, who are more destructive to Oregon than the grasshoppers.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Sept. 8.
- 1855 These *locofocos* are an incorrigible set of sinners, and die hard.—*Id.*, Nov. 3.
- 1862 He had lately heered that the *loco focos* had agin carried Indianny, and it had so worried him as to give him the tooth-ache.—Major Jack Downing, 'Letters,' Nov. 22.

**Locust.** The pseudo-acacia.

- 1640 The second is called *Locus* by that Nation resident in Virginia.—Parkinson, 'Theat. Bot.,' p. 1552. (N.E.D.)
- 1705 The *Locust*, which resembles much the Jasmine, [is fragrant in its Season].—Beverley, 'Virginia,' ii. 25.
- 1772 The culture of trees promises great advantages, more especially that of the *Locusts* and Mulberries.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 2.
- 1775 Rows of pseudo-acacias, or *locust-trees*, which are said with their leaves to manure and fertilize the land.—Andrew Burnaby, 'Travels in North America,' p. 76.
- 1792 *Locust* (robinia pseudo-acacia) is excellent fewel. Its trunk serves for durable posts set in the ground, and may be split into trunnels for ships.—Jeremy Belknap, 'N. Hampshire,' iii. 98.
- 1791 Who is that fellow, with a countenance as fixed and solemn as if he had been cut out of a *locust-tree*?—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 8.
- 1799 The woods [in certain cotton lands in N. Carolina] are the various oaks, hickory, wheatland pine, chesnut, poplar, with some wild cherry, black walnut, and *locusi*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Nov. 12.
- 1800 Wanted to purchase a large quantity of *Locust Tree Nails* . . . .N.B. Formerly called *Locust Trunnells*, and to be from 18 to 30 inches long.—*Id.*, Nov. 20.
- 1808 The woodland is timbered with *locust*, hickory, walnut, and oak.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, Jan. 29.
- 1818 The *locust*, not found in any part south of Red River, is plentiful on the Ouachitta and Red River. This tree abounds also at Natchez.—W. Darby, 'Emigrant's Guide,' p. 100, note.
- 1821 Orchards of apple-trees, defended from the sea winds by a barrier of cherry-trees and *locusts*.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iii. 89.
- 1823 The bottom lands are timbered with black walnut, *honey locus*, pawpaw, &c.—Geo. W. Ogden, 'Letters from the West,' p. 54 (New Bedford).
- 1833 He planted his yard full of catalpas and black *locusts*.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 153 (Phila.).



**Locust—contd.**

- 1842 It seems a long time to wait till our *locusts* and horse-chestnuts grow.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 49.
- 1855 Look out for the long sharp thorns of those *locust-trees*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlv. 316 (March).
- 1862 Springtime was tripping o'er the hills,  
And garlanding the sunny leas ;  
And white flowers hung, like scented wreaths  
Of sea-foam, on the *locust-trees*.

Id., lix. 19 (Jan.).

The following anecdote deserves a place :—

**USES OF AMERICAN GRASSHOPPERS.** In a French translation of one of J. Fenimore Cooper's novels there is a curious blunder on the part of the translator, and his attempts to explain only make the matter worse. The author wrote that a certain personage rode up to the house, dismounted from his carriage, and "hitched his horse to a locust." "Locust" here, of course, refers to a species of tree. The Frenchman's dictionary doubtless gave only "sauterelle" as an equivalent, a word applied both to the common grasshopper and the migrating locust. He translated : "Il attachas son cheval a une sauterelle" (he hitched his horse to a grasshopper), but was apparently dissatisfied. It probably struck him that the reader would be mystified, so he introduced a footnote at the bottom of the page, in French, of course, which translated into English reads as follows : "In the United States, grasshoppers occasionally grow to enormous, incredible size. When a particularly gigantic specimen is met with, it is customary to stuff it, weighing it down with lead for greater solidity. The animal is placed in front of the outside door and used for hitching horses."—*Goodwill Record*.

**Lodge-pole.** The pole supporting an Indian tent.

- 1834 As it is seldom that [the Comanches] find themselves in a place where they can obtain *lodge-poles*, they are obliged to carry them wherever they go.—Albert Pike, 'Sketches,' &c., p. 50 (Boston).
- 1855 [He] shook the *lodge-poles* in his fury.—'Hiawatha,' ch. ii. (N.E.D.)

**Log-box.** A prison made of logs.

- 1841 His friends are nigh enough to get him out of the *log-box*.—W. G. Simms, 'The Kinsmen,' i. 121. (Phila).

**Log cabin.** See CLAPBOARD, 1818, and CATS AND CLAY, 1848, for descriptions.

- 1840 *Log cabins* were what the term means,—a house made of round logs, one story high, of dimensions suited to the size or number of the family, and sometimes, with reference to an increase, a puncheon floor, a lin back loft, and a clapboard roof.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., April 10 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 427, App.
- 1850 He aided to "carry up the corner" of the first *log cabin*, where now stands the great city of Cincinnati.—Mr. Campbell of Ohio, the same, Feb. 19 : *id.*, p. 182, App.

**Log-cabin campaign.** This was the picturesque political campaign of 1840, in which it was said that Gen. W. H. Harrison lived in a log cabin and drank hard cider. See Appendix, XXX. and XXXI.

1840 The *Harrisburg Chronicle* (Nov ) states that the first *log cabin* of the campaign was displayed in that town, on a transparency, Jan. 20, 1840.

1840 Goody Harrison, a gossiping old lady, and an available, who lives on a sinecure clerkship in a city, but is pretended to be a farmer living in a *log cabin*, and drinking hard cider. —*Cong. Globe*, March 6.

1841 An electioneering pageant or procession could not be gotten up, nor regarded as complete, unless a *log cabin* formed a part. Hence we saw them placed on wheels and drawn by triple teams through the streets of our cities.—Mr. C. C. Clay of Alabama, U.S. Senate, Jan. 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 82, App.

1842 General Harrison lives in a *log cabin*, and drinks sour cider. —'Locofoco Paper,' cited by Buckingham: 'Eastern and Western States,' i. 505.

1884 When [Harrison] settled in the country, 'coons were of course numerous; but who it was who grouped together *the log cabin, hard cider, and 'coons* as the battle-cry of the party remains a mystery.—Shields, 'Life of Prentiss,' p. 299.

**Log-cock.** The pileated woodpecker.

1853 The *log-cock*, with his gaudy head-dress.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 58.

1884 The *log-cock*, or pileated woodpecker,....I have never heard drum.—J. Burroughs, *Century Mag.*, p. 222 (N.E.D.)

**Loggage.** A logging camp.

1843 On passing through villages and *loggages*, we, &c.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 268.

**Loggerhead.** See quotations.

1830 Peeping under the forestick at the red-hot flip iron, usually styled a *loggerhead*, Peter sat carelessly:—Landlord, what'll you bet I can't bite an inch off that are red-hot *loggerhead*? —*Mass. Spy*, July 7: from the *N. Y. Constellation*.

1859 Ran away from school one day to see Phillips hung for killing Denegri with a *loggerhead*. That was in flip days, when there were always two or three *loggerheads* in the fire. —'Professor at the Breakfast-Table,' ch. i.

1860 Three or four *loggerheads* (long irons clubbed at the end) were always lying in the fire in the cold season, waiting to be plunged into sputtering and foaming mugs of flip.—O. W. Holmes, 'Elsie Venner,' ch. v. (N.E.D.)

1867 Here snapped a fire of beechen logs, that bred  
Strange fancies in its embers golden-red,  
And nursed the *loggerhead*, whose hissing dip,  
Timed by nice instinct, creamed the mug of flip,  
Which made from mouth to mouth its genial round,  
Nor left one nature wholly winter-bound.

'Fitz-Adam's Story,' *Atl. Monthly*, Jan.

**Loggy, Logy.** Heavy, slow-moving. The *Ill. London News*, 1847, speaks of a "loggy stroke" in rowing. (N.E.D.)

1888 A more *loggy* looking animal can hardly be found, than the army mule.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 356.

1888 The dull, *logy*, scarcely moving oxen.—*Id.*, p. 361.

**Log-heaving.** See quotation.

1823 *Log-heaving*, that is, rolling trees together for burning, is done by the neighbours in a body, invited for the purpose.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 180.

**Log-house.** See quotation, 1803.

1669 That there be a *Logg house* Prison Twenty foot Square Built....in the Baltimore County.—'Maryland Archives' (1884), ii. 224. (N.E.D.)

1803 If the logs be hewed; if the interstices be stopped with stone, and neatly plastered; and the roof composed of shingles nicely laid on, it is called a *log-house*. A *log-house* has glass windows and a chimney; a cabin has commonly no window at all, and only a hole at the top for the smoke to escape.—Thaddeus M. Harris, 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 15 (Boston, 1805).

1843 A small *log house*; that is, a house formed from whole timber, the logs laid lengthwise, one upon top of another, and grooved at the ends to fix the angles firmly.—*Lowell Offering*, iv. 2.

**Log-pen.** See first quotation.

1829 [They] assisted him to raise another smaller cabin, in the language of the country, a *log-pen*.—T. Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 10 (Boston).

1836 At the point where the stream swept away around the shoulder of the platform, was placed a small *log pen*.—Beverly Tucker, 'The Partisan Leader,' p. 297 (N.Y., 1861).

1853 See Appendix XXIV.

**Log-rolling.** Literally, a combined effort to roll logs for cabin-building or for clearing land.

1833 The good villagers resorted to what, in woodland phrase, is called "*log-rolling*," which means a combined effort of many to do what is either difficult or impossible to one.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' ii. 41.

1835 A family comes down to sit in the forest,—they must have a shelter; their neighbours for many miles round lay down their employments, and come in to the "*log-rolling*."—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' i. 136 (Lond.).

1843 A *log-rolling* is described by R. Carlton in 'The New Purchase,' ch. xxvi.

1889 In some localities more thickly settled than others, neighbors render each other mutual assistance. In this case, the trunks of very large trees were cut down, chopped into logs, rolled together, and set on fire. Hence the phrase *log-rolling* in the vocabulary of our political common-places.—Phelan, 'History of Tennessee,' p. 28.

**Log-rolling.** Politically, mutual assistance in getting bills through the Legislature, especially for local objects.

1821 We shall see how the "*log-rollers*" will unite their strength.—*Penna. Intelligencer*, Harrisburg, Jan. 16.

1823 The removal of the county seat from frankling, and the *Log rolin* in the assembly to git it don.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, Feb. 11.

1823 That sort of "management," now . . . known by the dignified appellation of "*log-rolling*"—that is, buying and selling of votes.—*Niles's Weekly Register*, June 7, p. 210. (N.E.D.)

1823 *Log-rolling* is a disgraceful system by which legislators effect their favorite objects. One member agrees to support a measure which he deems injurious, in order to induce others to support measures for which he is anxious.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, Sept. 9.

1824 Men who "sell doves in the temple," and "*roll logs*" out of doors.—*Woodstock (Vt.) Observer*, March 16: from *Niles's Register*.

1828 John Q. Adams came into office . . . by the operation of a corrupt "*log-rolling*" arrangement.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Jan. 3, p. 4/2.

1831 The system of "*log-rolling*," so dangerous to all honest legislation.—Commodore R. F. Stockton to Daniel Webster, Aug. 19: 'Life,' i. 401 (1870).

1835 My people don't like me to *log-roll* in their business.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 120 (Phila.).

1844 [The bill] owes its success to what is familiarly known in our State as "*log-rolling*," by which each item of appropriation is made to support the rest, and thereby all made to stand, when no one of them could stand by itself upon its own merits.—Mr. Bayly of Virginia, House of Repr., June: *Cong. Globe*, p. 651, App.

1846 These gentlemen were exceedingly kind and accommodating to the West. But why? They wanted western votes for Texas. They wanted their *logs rolled*.—Mr. Stewart of Pa., the same, March 14: *id.*, p. 498, App.

1850 [The practice of tacking bills together] is condemned by public sentiment in our country, and stigmatized by the odious epithet of "*log-rolling*."—Mr. C. C. Clay of Alabama, U.S. Senate, April 22: *id.*, p. 795.

1869 For nearly thirty years after the invention of *log-rolling* over Mr. Jefferson's wine, the *log-rolling lobby* generally exercised their powers upon objects which possessed a public character.—James Parton on 'Log-rolling at Washington': *Atlantic Monthly*, p. 365 (Sept.).

**Log-trap.** See quotation 1792.

1784 We saw the . . . *log-traps*, which the hunters set for sables.—Jeremy Belknap, 'Tour of the White Mountains' (1876), p. 13. (N.E.D.)

1792 The *culheag*, or *log-trap*, is used for taking wolves, bears, and martins. [A description follows.]—The same, 'New Hampshire,' iii, 90.

**Lone Star State, The. Texas.**

- 1845 The *lone star* has found a place upon the democratic banners.—Mr. Smith of Indiana, House of Repr., Jan. 8 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 78, Appendix.
- 1845 Much as he regarded the lustre of the "*lone star*," he admired the brilliant galaxy of the present confederacy of our glorious old twenty six states much more.—Mr. Alex. H. Stephens of Georgia, the same, Jan. 25 : *id.*, p. 190.
- 1848 Texas was then a *lone star*. She is now one of thirty.—Mr. Dunn of Indiana, the same, July 28 : *id.*, p. 973, App.
- 1849 Then Texas was annexed....I loved the *lone star*. It rose in gloom, but soon shone forth in glory.—Mr. Charles Brown of Pa., the same, Feb. 3 : *id.*, p. 117, App.
- 1860 There is a clog in the way of the *lone-star State* of Texas in the person of her Governor.—Mr. Alfred Iverson of Georgia, U.S. Senate, Dec. 5 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 11/3.

**Longheads, Long-headed men.** Those gifted with prescience and sagacity.

- 1711 Being a *long-headed* gentlewoman, I am apt to imagine she has some further design.—R. Steele, *Spectator*, No. 52. (N.E.D.)
- 1799 Men so remarkably gifted with *long heads* would never have credited it.—*The Aurora*, Phila., June 11.

**Long hunters.**

- a.1770. This name was given to a party under Col. James Knox of N. Carolina, who made an exploration in 1770 as far as the sources of the Green River.—Butler's 'Kentucky,' pp. 18, 19.

**Long knives, Big knives.** Names applied by the Indians to the white men, especially to the Virginians.

- 1784 The savages now learned the superiority of the *Long Knife*, as they call the Virginians....Conscious of the importance of the *Long Knife*, [they] desired peace.—John Filson, 'Kentucke,' pp. 62, 80.
- 1786 General Clarke of Virginia, whom the Indians dread, and stile the *Big Knife*.—*Mass. Gazette*, Oct. 17.
- 1788 The squaws [i.e. the white women] have taken the breech-clout, and fight worse than the *long knives* : [said the wounded Indian].—Letter from Ohio, *Mass. Spy*, June 19.
- 1817 The Americans are called "the *Big Knives*" by the Indians of the Missouri.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 75.
- 1821 [The Indians used] a few ill-boding words, such as Virginian, *long knife*, no good.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 314.
- 1835 Sometimes the name of the *Long Knives* was conferred by the Indians, in a complimentary sense, upon the English.—W. G. Simms, 'The Yemassee,' i. 27.

**Long nine.** A cheap cigar ; also (1839) a duck gun.

- 1830 No more discomposed . . . than a Providence lady is at passing the fourfold row of *long-nine-smoking* beaux, that are regularly drawn up on Sunday forenoon in Market Square.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' pp. 213-14.
- 1833 No great shakes, tho', after all, continued he, with a *long nine* in his mouth.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 45.
- 1835 He unfolded the wrapper ; it contained two *long-nine* segars.—'Harvardiana,' i. 157.
- 1836 To walk Boston streets, not with a *long nine* in mouth.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, July 30.
- [1839 He demanded who I was, and what the devil I was doing with my *long nine* (meaning the duck gun).—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' i. 199.]
- 1842 The most prominent object seen in Chesnut Street was a "*long nine*," with a fierce-looking buck of a colored fellow hanging to the end of it.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, April 18.
- 1844 The segars were "*long nines*," such as are made and sold in Massachusetts for a penny a grab.—*Id.*, Nov. 5.
- 1847 The long dank American cigar, "nine inches long, and nine for a cent."—*Knick. Mag.*, xxx. 554 (Dec.).
- 1850 A man who was puffing a villanous "*long-nine*" in the bar-room of a hotel in a western village.—*Id.*, xxxv. 555 (June).
- 1851 Pete had, as he always had after breakfast, a cigar in his mouth, a *long nine*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xvi. 315.
- 1857 The lawyer established a light at the end of a villanous *long nine*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 67 (Jan.).
- 1857 [The man] would sway backward and forward like a loose liberty pole in a gale of wind. He had a "*long-nine*" segar between his teeth.—*Id.*, xlix. 100 (Jan.).
- 1857 They were garnered by stable-boys smoking *long-nines*.—'Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table,' ch. ii.

**Long sauce.**—The larger vegetables.

- 1809 The mystery of making apple sweetmeats, *long sauce*, and pumpkin pies.—W. Irving, 'Hist. of N.Y.,' i. 184 (1812).
- 1833 Here the soil's so deep, one can't raise any *long sarce*.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 209 (Lond., 1835).
- 1825 A quantity of *long, short, and round sauce*.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 76.
- 1850 There were cabbages, white and purple ; parsnips ; turnips long and round ; carrots ; in short, *long and short saase* of every description.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxvi. 386 (Oct.).
- 1860 Squash, long-necked squash, crooked-necked squash, cucumber, beets, parsnip, carrot, turnip, white turnip, yellow turnip, or any sort of sass, *long sass* or *short sass*.—*Id.*, lvi. 102 (July).

**Long-short.** See quotations.

- 1851 Her dress was a blue-striped linen short-gown wrapper, or *long-short*, a coarse yellow petticoat, and checked apron.—S. Judd, 'Margaret,' i. 11. (N.E.D.)
- 1851 A woman in a tattered and begrimed *long-short*, with the collar open.—*Id.*, ii. 50.

**Long Sweetening.** See quotations.

- 1883 In the Far West, as Down East, sugar bears the name of *long and short sweetening*, according as it is the product of the cane . . . or of the maple tree.—'Encycl. Am.,' i. 199. (N.E.D.)
- 1904 Only cornbread, peas, and sorghum were plentiful. The latter took the place of molasses, and at the same time was known as *long sweetening*.—Claiborne, 'Old Virginia,' p. 201.

**Looney.** A silly fellow; a lunatic.

- 1872 You're that *looney* sort of chap that lives over yonder, ain't ye? F. Bret Harte, 'Heiress of Red Dog' (1879), p. 93. (N.E.D.)

**Loon-face.** A coward.

- 1850 Many who secretly condemned, openly applauded, lest they should be set down for *loon-faces* and poltroons.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Moneypenny,' p. 37 (N.Y.).  
[This recalls the "cream-faced loon" of Macbeth, V. iii.]

**Looseness, with a.** Without restraint.

- 1836 Go it *with a looseness*,—root, little pig, or die.—'A Quarter Race in Kentucky,' p. 18 (1846).
- 1852 Out of time, out of place, and out of order, he pitches into it, as the saying is out West, *with a perfect looseness*.—Mr. Giddings of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 326.

**Lop down.** To settle down carelessly.

- 1840 Jist come in, and take off your things, and *lop down*, if you're a mind to.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 20.
- 1878 I'd *lopped down* onto the sofy, when I happened to think I'd hev tea early.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. xxv.

**Lope.** A long, easy canter or gallop. The word, as a verb, is old; and Mr. Neal's derivation (1825) will not bear examination.

- 1825 [The Indian's] common pace, when he had any object in view, was a kind of loose, long, lazy trot, like that of the wolf through a light snow. Wherefore it is called in America the Indian *loup*.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 5.
- 1833 On the buck came, at an easy *lope*, until he reached the top of a little knoll.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 38 (Phila.).
- 1840 "Ride him off, Neddy," said Peter. Kit put off at a handsome *lope*.—A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 26.



**Lope—contd.**

- 1848 Away for the Capitol—at what in Indiana we call a long *lope*—not in full dress, by any means. Were a stranger to meet one of us on the way, he would take him for a messenger despatched for a physician or midwife, or an errand-boy just escaped from contact with the toe of his employer's boot. Such is the life of a Member of Congress now, compared with that of our predecessors of forty or fifty years ago.—Mr. Wick of Indiana, House of Repr., Aug. 7: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1117, App.
- 1850 Starting at a canter, or "*lope*," we dashed forward.—James L. Tyson, 'Diary in California,' p. 65 (N.Y.).
- 1850 [They are] accustomed only to the natural gait of the wild horse—the gallop, or *lope*, as it is here called.—T. T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Region,' p. 132 (N.Y.).
- 1869 The Western man always rides at a *lope*.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 302.

[For fuller citation see CAYUSE.]

**Lope.** To go at a lope or canter. The 'Cath. Angl.' (1483) gives the word as an equivalent of Salire or Saltare.

- 1851 Though [grizzly bears] ain't built raal beautiful for runnin, they *lope* awful smart.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 110.
- 1855 There's nary hoss that was ever foaled, durn fool enough to *lope* over such a place.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, May 12.
- 1888 [He was perplexed] at a trotter outdoing the most splendid specimen of a *loping* horse.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 392.
- 1908 In them days folks didn't go *a-lopin'* all over creation as soon as they got married.—'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 124.
- 1910 Pretty soon here he come on horseback, and five or six dogs *lopin'* at the horse's heels.—Eliza C. Hall, 'Land of Long Ago,' p. 53 (N.Y.).

**Lost rocks, Lost stones.** See quotations.

- 1819 [Certain stones] in the Illinois and Missouri territories are denominated *lost-stones*, from their being strangers to the soil where they are found.—H. C. McMurtrie, 'Sketches of Louisville,' p. 29.
- 1838 [In Illinois] I met with those singular granite masses, termed familiarly by settlers "*lost rocks*"; in geology, boulders.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 79 (N.Y.).

**Lot.** A piece of land: so called because, in New England, the land was in early times distributed by lot.

1661, 1805, 1806. See HOUSE LOT.

1829 See CORNER LOT.

1837 The body of an infant [was] found in a *lot* near Orleans street.—Balt. *Comm. Transcript*, Oct. 7, p. 2/1.

1844 [In 1833] Chicago was first laid out into *lots*.—Mr. Wentworth of Ill., House of Repr., Jan. 9: *Cong. Globe*, p. 57, App.

**Low boat.** The boat whose occupants kill the fewest fish.—*Cent. Dict.*

**Low down.** Degraded.

1850 The "low down" Virginia Democratic western mountain Democracy.—*Mr. of Repr.*, April 25 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 8

1881 It was so much better than he could his "low-down" relative.—*G. W. C. &c.*, p. 104. (N.E.D.)

1901 Every low-down Neapolitan ice-cream. *Scribner's Mag.*, xxix. 484. (N.E.D.)

**Low-flung.** Exceedingly degraded.

1843 Here we have a beautiful specimen low-flung slang of the clique.—*Missouri*, April 11.

1846 Who wants a parcel of low-flung out in cahoot with us ?—*Oregon Spectator*

1850 He is classed with free negroes, rascals, and draymen.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 122 (Pl)

1850 A Polka, did you say—no, that's treachery or'nery.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxv.

1854 He was a Federalist, and denounced low-flung demagogue, and Madison as 'Flush Times,' p. 24.

1860 [Judge R. H. Field should] have spared South Carolina and Alabama without of "fire-eaters," "treason," and "low-flung dogs." *Enquirer*, Nov. 2, p. 1/8.

1861 Senator Brown of Mississippi has said we are sneaking, low-flung, and cowardly. Aug. 10.

1861 It would be impossible to attempt a low-flung dogs.—Letter to the same,

**Lug-pole.** See quotation.

1773 A defect in the Chimney by Reason Pole burning out.—*Mass. Gazette*, Feb.

**Lugs, put on the.** To put on style.

1902 Oh, we put on the lugs now. We will eatin'.—*W. N. Harben*, 'Abner Dani

**Lumber.** Timber. Hence LUMBER-MAN, 3

1786 Lumber-yard, at the head of Baltimore. scribes have just received a large quantity of kinds of lumber, &c.—*Maryland Jour*

1792 Husbandry is much preferable to the in point of gain, contentment, &c. Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 211.

1806 Near 32 millions feet of lumber were flourishing town of Portland [Maine] 1 Jan. 29.

a.1817 The lumbermen were without employment. 'Travels' (1821), ii. 166. (N.E.D.)

**Lumber—contd.**

- a.1817 Those who are mere *lumbermen* [in Maine] are almost necessarily poor. Their course of life seduces them to prodigality, profaneness, &c.—*Id.*, ii. 236.
- 1846 By this device, the provincial *lumberman* has an advantage over a Maine *lumberman*.—Mr. Fairfield of Maine, U.S. Senate, Jan. 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 252.
- 1850 I had the misfortune to live in this town four years, my father having a *lumber-bush* there.... Beside the *lumber-bush*, my father cultivated a little farm.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, xxxv. 22, 23 (Jan.).

**Lummo, Lummo.** A stupid, clumsy fellow.

- 1854 Man in his original state is little more than a big *lummo* of a baby.—Dow, Jun., iv. 149.
- 1857 I hope you'll leave somebody else to home besides this lazy *lummo*.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 381.
- 1871 I would trust [the Roman cart-horse] to keep on pulling, long after your mere *lummos* had fallen in their shafts.—*Old and New*, June (De Vere).

**Lunch-counter.** See quotation.

- 1908 MR. BRYAN AS A QUICK LUNCH HERO. Mr. Bryan has, during the past twelve years, eaten or otherwise made way with over 1,700 meals at railroad *lunch-counters*. He is a survivor of all the bad *lunch-counters* in the country. He has run a block, eaten a meal, and returned to his train in the fifteen minutes allowed by the railroad companies in Texas. He has partaken of Missouri's exhibitions of mummified food, and has assimilated the historical eggs at the *lunch-counter* at Aurora, Illinois, and the pink peach pies of the *lunch-counters* at Cleveland, Ohio. He has drunk 1,700 kinds of coffee at these places, and has thus learned every brand of chickory that is raised in Michigan. He has sat, morning after morning, with the elbow of his right-hand neighbor in his vitals, and the elbow of his left-hand neighbor in his pie, and has thought, while eating, of a place where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.—From 'Travelling for the Presidency,' an article by George Fitch in *Collier's Mag.*, Oct.

**Lunk-head.** An ignoramus.

- 1889 You dear old *lunk-head*, I congratulate you.—A. W. Tourgee, in *Chicago Advance*, Dec. 19. (N.E.D.)

**Lurky.** Wrinkled. See *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. xii. 270, 271.

- 1842 A solemn face, shaded by long black hair well tallowed down each *lurky* cheek.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, March 8.

**Lynch law, Lynching, &c.** The identity of the original "Judge Lynch" is probably beyond discovery. See an examination of the question by Mr. Albert Matthews in *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. xi. 445, 515 ; xii. 133–5.

- 1817 In the year 1792 there were many suits on the south side of the James River, for inflicting *Lynch's law*.—S. Roane in Wirt's 'Life of P. Henry' (1818), 372. (N.E.D.)

**Lynch law, Lynching, &c.—*contd.***

- 1820 No commentator has taken any notice of *Lynch's law*, which was once the *lex loci* of the frontiers. Its operation was as follows: when a horse thief, a counterfeiter, or any other desperate vagabond, infested a neighbourhood, . . . .the courts formed themselves into a "regulating company," a kind of holy brotherhood, whose duty was to purge the community of its unruly members. Squire Birch (*sic*), who was personated by one of the party, established his tribunal under a tree in the woods, and the culprit was brought before him, tried, and generally convicted.—Hall's 'Letters from the West,' pp. 291–2 (Lond.).
- 1823 [They informed him] that, unless he quitted the town and state immediately, he should receive *Lynch's law*, that is, a whipping in the woods.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 304. [For a fuller citation, see YANKEE.]
- 1834 Sometimes they give him *Lynch's Law*, after old Nick Lynch, who invented it in Virginny.—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' i. 63 (N.Y., 1837).
- 1836 The operation of *lynching* is graphically described in 'Col. Crockett in Texas,' pp. 100–103 (Phila.).
- 1838 [A free negro was drowned in the Mississippi,] under the sentence of that most unmerciful of judges, *Judge Lynch*.—*The Jeffersonian*, Albany, May 26, p. 120.
- 1844 Nothing—nothing but General Jackson, and his reverence for justice, protected [Judge Hall] from the decree of *Judge Lynch*.—Mr. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, House of Repr., Jan. 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 114.
- 1844 A parcel of men who were committing various acts of violence, under the authority of "*Lynch*," or, as they styled themselves, Regulators.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Nov. 8.
- 1853 See Paxton's 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' pp. 315–397, with a full account of the notorious "Murrel gang."
- 1860 A correspondent of the *Richmond Enquirer*, April 12, 1860, p. 4/5, states that the originator of Lynch law was Col. Charles L. Lynch, whose residence, at the time of the Revolution, was on Staunton River, Va. His father was the founder of Lynchburg.
- 1901 See a paper on 'The Real Judge Lynch,' by Mr. T. W. Page, in the *Atl. Monthly* for December.
- 1904 They told me they were on the way to have a *lynching-bee*.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 62.
- 1909 The verdict in the Rankin murder case at Union City means that something of the spirit which is stirring eastern Kentucky to mend its ways has visibly touched western Tennessee. The jurymen called to pass judgment on the eight night riders knew full well the savage vindictiveness of Reelfoot Lake, its free and easy assassins, and "*lynching bees*." And since the trial opened they have been warned that the law of an eye for an eye still holds. In the face of personal danger, however, they have found the defendants guilty and recommended heavy punishment.—*N.Y. Ev. Post.*, Oct. (?)

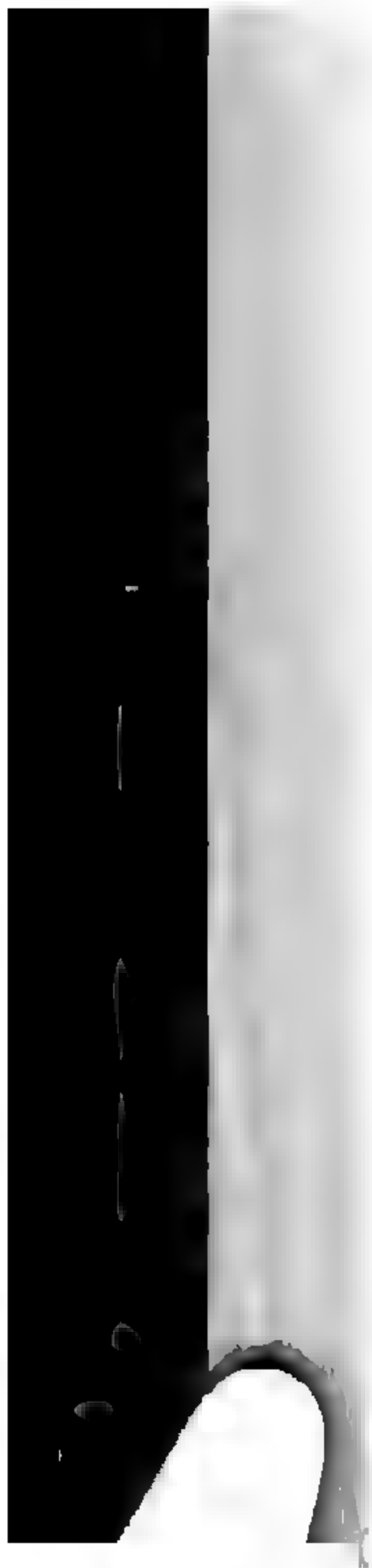
**Lynch law, Lynching, &c.—*contd.***

- 1911 The *lynchers* are on top—near Charleston, South Carolina. There a despicable wretch was *lynched* a week ago yesterday. It was done, says the *Charleston Evening Post*, in the “most approved and up-to-date fashion.” Automobiles filled with “prominent citizens” took part in the chase. “Among those present” was a Representative in the General Assembly, the Honorable Joshua Ashley, who with his son took the prisoner from the sheriff. But, of course, now that the event is over, nobody knows anything about the crime.—*Id.*, Oct. 19.
- 1911 As reported in the *Spartanburg Herald*, [Gov. Blease of S. Carolina] dealt with the race question in the most brutal and lawless fashion. He declared openly that he approved of *lynching*, and added that the negroes of South Carolina knew that he would not send troops to prevent their being *lynched*.—*Id.*, July 13.

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END OF VOL. I.

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